PALL MALL GAZETTE

An Evening Newspaper and Review.

No. 7435.—Vol. XLIX. *TUESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 15, 1889.* *Price One Penny.*

TO-NIGHT'S ENTERTAINMENTS.

DRURY LANE.
(Augustus Harris, Lessee and Manager.)
TO-DAY, at 1.30 and 7.30, THE BABES IN THE WOOD. Messrs. Harry Nicholls, Herbert Campbell, C. Lauri, jun., Stevens, Leno, Griffiths Bros., Andrews, Inch, Pleon, Henderson, Stanley, Dezano, and Harry Payne; Mesdames Florence Dysart, Duggan, Mayer, ÆNEA, Grey, Charteris, Deering, and Harriet Vernon. Box-office open daily from 10 to 6.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Beerbohm-Tree.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.30 precisely, the new original Drama, by Mr. Haddon Chambers, entitled "CAPTAIN SWIFT." Mr. Tree, Mr. Macklin, Mr. Kemble, Mr. Fuller Mellish, Mr. Allan, Mr. Harwood, Mr. Harrison, and Mr. Brookfield; Lady Monckton, Miss Rose Leclercq, Miss Cudmore, and Mrs. Tree. Preceded, at 7.50, by THE DUCHESS OF BAYSWATER AND CO. Doors open at 7.30. Box-office open daily, 10 till 5. MORNING PERFORMANCE SATURDAY NEXT, January 19, at 2.30.
SPECIAL MATINEES of THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR TO-MORROW and EVERY WEDNESDAY, at 2.30. Seats may now be booked.

LYCEUM THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry Irving.)
MACBETH, TO-NIGHT, at 7.45. Overture 7.40. Macbeth, Mr. Henry Irving; Lady Macbeth, Miss Ellen Terry. Messrs. Alexander, Wenman, Tyars, Webster, Howe, Haviland, Harvey, Johnson, Kaynor, Outram, Lacy, Archer, &c.; Misses Marriott, Seaman, Desborough Coleridge, Ivor, &c. Box-office (Mr. J. Hurst) open 10 to 5. Seats can also be booked by letter or telegram. Carriages 11.—LYCEUM.

TOOLE'S THEATRE.
THE DON. Mr. J. L. TOOLE. EVERY EVENING, at 8.30, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Merivale's successful Comedy, in Three Acts, THE DON. 220th Time. EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.

SAVOY THEATRE.
(Proprietor and Manager, R. D'Oyly Carte.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, the New and Original Opera, in Two Acts, by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, entitled THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD; or, THE MERRYMAN AND HIS MAID. Preceded at 7.20 by MRS. JARRAMIE'S GENIE. Doors open at 7. MORNING PERFORMANCE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30. Doors open at 2. Box-office open continuously from 9 A.M. to 11 P.M.

ADELPHI THEATRE.
(A. and S. Gatti, Sole Proprietors and Managers.)
THIS EVENING, at 8.0, THE SILVER FALLS. Mr William Terriss; Messrs. C. Cartwright, J. D. Beveridge, J. L. Shine, Royce Carleon, Fardley Turner, J. Carne, C. Eaton, James East, H. Russell; Mesdames Millward, O. Nethersole, G. Esmond, A. Dacrolles, and Clara Jecks. At 7.15, Farce. MORNING PERFORMANCE SATURDAY NEXT, at 2.0.

VAUDEVILLE THEATRE.
(Mr. Thomas Thorne, Sole Lessee and Manager.)
THIS EVENING, at 8.30, JOSEPH'S SWEETHEART. 250th Time. Preceded at 7.30 by THE POET. Mr. Thomas Thorne; Messrs. William Rignold, Fred Thorne, Cyril Maude, J. S. Blythe, Scott Buist, F. Greve, Frank Gillmore, and Mr. H. B. Conway; Mesdames Gladys Homfrey, Annie Irish, M. A. Gifford, Banister, B. Harrison, Arnold, K. McNeill, Bowman Adercron, Maunder, and Winifred Emery.

GAIETY THEATRE.
THIS EVENING, at 7.30, FIRST MATE. At 8.30, FAUST UP TO DATE. Miss Florence St. John, Miss Vesta Cameron, Miss Marie Illington, Miss Fanny Robina, Miss Jessie M'Neilly, Miss Lillian Price, Miss M. Jones, Miss F. Levey, Miss A. Young, Miss E. Greville, Miss M. Love; Mr. E. J. Lonnen, Mr. H. Parker, Mr. Charles Ross, Mr. E. Haslem, and Mr. George Stone.

TERRY'S THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Edward Terry.)
The safest Theatre in the world, constructed entirely with concrete and iron absolutely fireproof, lighted throughout by electricity.
TO-NIGHT, at 8.30, SWEET LAVENDER, by A. W. Pinero. 304th Time. Messrs. Edward Terry, Alfred Bishop, Brandon Thomas, F. Kerr, H. Reeves Smith, Sant Matthews, Prince Miller; Mesdames M. A. Victor, Carlotta Addison, Maude Millett, and Blanche Horlock. Doors open at 8. Carriages 11. MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.30. Box-office open from 10 to 5. Telephone 2,702.—Acting Manager, Mr. H. T. Brickwell.

GLOBE THEATRE.
(Sole Lessee, Mr. Richard Mansfield.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8, SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER. Miss KATE VAUGHAN (specially engaged) as Miss HARDCASTLE, and Mr. LIONEL BROUGH as TONY LUMPKIN. Followed by the Monologue, HOW IT HAPPENED, in which Miss Vaughan will dance.
Mr. Mansfield is ordered by his physician to cease work for a time. Upon his return to this theatre SHAKESPEARE'S Tragedy, RICHARD III., will be played.

STRAND THEATRE.
Last Night.
(Under the management of Mr. C. H. Hawtrey.)
(By arrangement with Mr. Willie Edouin.)
TO-NIGHT will be performed, a Burlesque in Three Acts, entitled ATALANTA, at 9 o'clock. Mr. George Capes, Mr. Tom Squire, Mr. Fleming Norton, Mr. W. F. Hawtrey, and Mr. Willie Warde; Miss Muriel Aubrey, Miss Carlotta Zerlina, Misses S. and G. Baring, and Miss Marie Linden. Preceded, at 8.10, by A HIGHLAND LEGACY, by Mr. Brandon Thomas. Box-office open from Ten to Five.

COURT THEATRE.
(Proprietors, Mrs. John Wood and Mr. Arthur Chudleigh.)
(Under the management of Mrs. John Wood.)
EVERY EVENING, at 8.0 (by arrangement with Mr. John Hare), an adaptation of LES SURPRISES DU DIVORCE, by Sydney Grundy, entitled MAMMA. 102nd Performance. Preceded at 8 by BOX AND COX. Doors open 7.45. Box-office open 10 to 10. Telephone 3,031. EVERY AFTERNOON, at 2.30, LITTLE GOODY TWO SHOES. Special prices: Stalls, 7s. 6d.; dress circle, 5s.

PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE.
(Lessee and Manager, Mr. Horace Sedger.)
TO-NIGHT at 8, PAUL JONES. Misses Agnes Huntington, Phyllis Broughton, Kate Cutler, St. Cyr, Jeannie Mills, and Miss Wadman; Messrs. Harry Monkhouse, Henry Ashley, Templer Saxe, Albert James, George Preston, and Frank Wyatt.

LYRIC THEATRE.
(Sole Proprietor and Manager, Henry J. Leslie.)
TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, DOROTHY. 846th Performance. Mesdames Effie Chapuy, Florence Ferry, H. Coveney, F. Neville, and Amy Augarde; Messrs. Ben Davies, Furneaux Cook, Arthur Williams, J. Le Hay, S. King, and C. Hayden Coffin. At 7.30, WARRANTED BURGLAR PROOF. MATINEE EVERY SATURDAY at 2.30.

AVENUE THEATRE.
(Manager, Mr. H. Watkin.)
EVERY EVENING at 8.15, TO-MORROW and SATURDAYS at 2, NADGY. Mdlle. Vanoni, Mr. Arthur Roberts, and powerful company. Conducted by Mr. John Crook. Preceded at 7.30 by QUITS. Doors open at 7.15: Box-office open daily from 10 to 5 o'clock. Telephone 3,241. MORNING PERFORMANCES doors open 1.30. Children half price to Matinees.—R. D'Allerton, Acting Manager.

SOME PLAIN TRUTHS PLAINLY STATED.

The Parnell Commission resumes to-day, and before the "inquiry" begins we wish to ask once more, as earnestly as our respect for the authority of the three judges will permit, how much longer is it to last? It is not "contempt" we hope to ask whether the patience of the public is to be abused, its money wasted, and judicial forms rendered a laughing stock, by persistence in the mode of investigation which was adopted last year. Let us say in advance that if the three judges were to rule that it is contempt of court to say that we agree with their repeated and emphatic expressions of opinion as to the excessive prolongation of the "inquiry" we should at once apologize for our indiscretion in presuming to agree with them, and refrain in future from even expressing concurrence in their judicial dicta. But at present it is not unlawful to speak plainly in support of the suggestions made from time to time by Mr. Justice Hannen, and, in what we trust is the legitimate exercise of our liberties, we venture to lay stress upon some very obvious considerations in very plain terms.

The *Standard*, we thankfully observe, has at last come to our assistance. The leader which it devotes to the subject of the Commission this morning reads curiously like an article which we published, on the same subject about six weeks since. The concurrence of the ministerial organ in our criticisms and complaints is a portent which should not pass unnoticed at Printing House-square. When so thoroughgoing a Unionist as our contemporary tells the Commission that if they go on as they have been going on last year they will not be able to rise before the end of the century, and warns them that the legitimate impatience of the public demands that they should address themselves to the vital point of the inquiry, the Attorney-General and Sir Henry James will do well to reconsider their plan of campaign. We are not in the least anxious about the matter from the party point of view. So far as Home Rule is concerned we should distinctly prefer that the Commission should go on for ever as it has been going on. For this reason. All that the Commission has done hitherto has been to bring into clear relief the diseased condition of the body politic in Ireland. We are all agreed about that, but it is well that the fact should be brought home to the mind of the British public. The worse it is made out to be, the more damning is the indictment of the social and political system which induced such a state of gangrene. It is not indigenous to the Irish nature. These things do not occur in the Irish quarters of our English cities. It is as if there was a great raw upon a horse's back, and all the world was summoned to inspect the sore. Obviously, the worse the wound the more convinced the world will be that the harness is bad which could have so chafed off the skin, nor will the argument that breeds of horses always were born with sores on their backs have much weight with unprejudiced observers. All that the Commission has done up till now has been to prove the existence of the sore—which no one disputed. It has not helped us one single step towards the solution of the question as to who is responsible for its creation.

Now, what we want to know is when the Commission is going to begin its work. Up to the present time it has done nothing whatever towards proving anything against any of those whom the *Times* accused. It has simply wasted time by proving what every one would have admitted beforehand. Is there a single individual man or woman or child in the three kingdoms who would not have admitted as past all dispute every single fact which has been proved in the course of this inquiry? This wearisome persistence in battering away at an open door, this endless repetition *ad nauseam* of the most elementary and undisputed truisms, is simply sickening the public. At first every one hoped that the foolery would soon be over. We were summoned to see the forces of order make their final charge upon the citadel of anarchy and treason: all the world and his wife hurried up to see the fight. But when the *Times* battalions simply marked time, and marked time, and kept on marking time, without advancing a step, incredulity gave way to disappointment and disappointment to ridicule and disgust. All last year they marked time. Are they going to do the same again? We shall soon see. If they do, they will not be hissed off the stage. They will simply be left alone. No one will report them but the *Times*, and no one will read the *Times* reports. Surely for the credit of the law, of the judges, and of the *Times* itself, this nonsensical performance should cease. Why cannot Mr. Justice Hannen compel the *Times* to come to the point? He has again and again said that it ought to do so. How long shall we have to wait before he will say that it must?

TWO VIEWS OF THE PARIS ELECTION.

I.—Boulanger and Napoleon: 1849 and 1888. By Admiral Maxse.

Admiral Maxse writes us as follows from Paris:—It seems almost incredible that General Boulanger should have any prospect at all of winning Seine election, it is so perfectly transparent that his course is precisely the same as that of Louis Napoleon thirty years ago. The following parallel passages have been placarded in Paris:—

Louis Napoleon, 1849.	Boulanger, 1888.
Remaining aloof from all parties, I am hostile to none, and in gathering under the same flag all those who are devoted to our country, I serve as a rallying point.	I have only one hope. It is to find my name become a rallying point which will enable citizens to emerge from a state of anarchy.

The truly wicked thing which Boulanger has done has been to add one more party to the superfluous number already existing. Every intelligent and sincere politician sees through him and knows what his inevitable course must be. The Monarchist and Bonapartist do so with delight. The Republican contingent which backs him up consists of the notoriety-hunting or mischief-loving like Rochefort, of the naïve, and —most dangerous of all to the Republic—of *enragés* radicals. It will hardly be believed that there is a large class of intelligent and perfectly honest Radicals who intend to vote for Boulanger, in order to punish Floquet for not having been Radical enough, that is to say, for not having pushed the Radical "down-with-the-Senate" anti-clerical programme when in power. They talk of giving him the same lesson as they gave Thiers in the Barodet election, when Paris rejected Remusat, his Foreign Minister. They forget that in voting for Barodet they at least supported an honest Republican. I had a talk with one of this party yesterday. He is a hardworking man, distinguished, and rising rapidly in his profession. He can have but little time to devote to politics. I suggested to him that in order to punish Floquet, an acknowledged Radical statesman, he was going to support a man who would overthrow the Republic. He replied, "It is a pity we have not a better candidate than Boulanger, but if he attempt to suppress the Republic—he must be killed" (*il faut le tuer*). Such language, and on the part of a highly educated man, is enough to fill one with despair. Truly the French do not know the meaning of the word "compromise." Each party's idea must dominate, or "Perish France,"

II.—An Interview with General Boulanger. By Mr. G. E. Crawford.

This morning I set out to cross the Champs Elysées on the chance of finding General Boulanger at home. A number of other people, bent on the same errand, were converging towards the Rue Dumont d'Urville. The elements were unfavourable—snow that melted as it fell, and freezing yet liquid mud—but the hero-worshippers cared little for that.

A State of Siege.

There was not much fear of his being from home. He hardly ever goes out now. True he had driven to the Chamber at two o'clock to tender, as it was believed, his resignation for the Nord, but the visit only lasted half an hour, and when he returned he was still a Deputy. "He has so much work to do at home," whispered a friend from one of the benches in the right centre. One side of the road was lined with carriages for some hundred yards before I reached No. 11. More carriages, with the horses' heads towards you this time, extended for some hundred yards beyond. A stream of foot-passengers, singly or in groups, splashes its way along the slippery pavement. A ring at the electric bell, the door flies open the same moment, and we hurry into shelter.

Wooing the Fickle Goddess.

No one is refused admission. The order to that effect is imperative and admits of no exception.

"Is Monsieur le Général at home?"

"Certainly, sir. Please walk in."

OUR KITH AND KIN.

The extraordinary jealousy between the adjoining colonies of New South Wales and Victoria has long been recognized as the greatest obstacle of all in the way of a complete Australian federation. As far as can be gathered from the telegram in Friday's papers, it is to this unfortunate jealousy that the unexpected downfall of the Ministry of Sir Henry Parkes must partly be ascribed. A non-political Board has recently been appointed to manage the State railways of New South Wales, and the Parkes Ministry selected as a member of this Board Mr. W. M. Fehon, who had been for many years the traffic manager on the Victorian railways. For thus selecting a gentleman from the detested colony on the other side of the river Murray the Parkes Government sustained a parliamentary defeat and resigned.

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The gentleman sent for by Lord Carrington to form a new Ministry is officially styled the Hon. J. H. Want, but Sydney people invariably call him by the familiar name of "Jack," just as Londoners proudly call Lord Charles Beresford "Charlie." "Jack" is a barrister of repute and an enthusiastic sportsman, but it may be doubted if he has the qualifications to fulfil the commission entrusted to him by Lord Carrington. Judging from the experience of the past, it will not be long before Sir Henry Parkes—the G.O.M. of the south—will be sitting on the Treasury benches again.

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Sir Henry was born in Warwickshire, and is now in his seventy-third year. He was a fiery Chartist in his early manhood, and published a volume of revolutionary poems under the title of "Murmurs of the Tide." His opponents now take a cynical delight in dipping into that little volume and exhuming a violent verse or two for the edification of the venerable author of to-day. But the old man can usually shut them up in a sentence. The five points of the Charter, for which he contended in his youth, are potent actualities in the democratic colonies of to-day.

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Regent-square Chapel is engaging so much attention at present that it will not be amiss to recall the fact that a son of its famous preacher, Edward Irving, is living in Melbourne. Martin Henry Irving was for many years Professor of Logic and Comparative Philology in the University of Melbourne, and when he resigned that chair he started an educational institution of his own in the fashionable suburb of Hawthorn. From this headmastership he was taken by the Government of Victoria and made a member of the Public Service Board—an office he continues to hold.

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Mr. J. A. Froude says in "Oceana":—"At dinner the same evening, I met with very great pleasure a son of Edward Irving's, long professor, and now, I believe, rector of Melbourne University." This is "froudacious." There is no such office as rector in connection with the Melbourne University. The institution is governed by a chancellor, vice-chancellor, council, and senate. When Mr. Irving ceased to be professor he was elected a member of the Council, and that was the academic office he held when Mr. Froude was in Melbourne.

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The executors of the late Right Hon. W. B. Dalley intend publishing in one large volume the principal orations and a selection from the occasional writings of that distinguished statesman. Steps have been taken by the members of the Australian Contingent which he despatched to the Soudan to perpetuate his memory by the placing of a tablet in St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney; and his lifelong friend, Sir John Robertson, has initiated a fund for the erection of a statue of Sydney's chief worthy and most eminent son.

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As most people know, the seasons and everything else are reversed at the antipodes. However strange it may seem to the residents of the north of Ireland it is therefore only in accordance with the fitness of things that the town of Orange, in New South Wales, should send a subscription of £100 to the Parnell Indemnity Fund, while so far the town Homerule, in the same colony, has only raised £35. What a novel sensation it will be for John Dillon, M.P., who starts for Australia in the steamer *Ormuz* on the 1st of February, to find himself a few weeks hence enthusiastically welcomed and escorted into the aforesaid town by a couple of thousand Orangemen.

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Colonel Luang nai Sidda is visiting Victoria on a mission from Siam. He is commissioned to inquire into the schools, the hospitals, the prisons, &c., of the colony.

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A number of Melbourne ladies recently engaged a member of the South Kensington School of Needlework to teach them sewing. The lady is now *en route*, and a number of classes have been formed in anticipation of her arrival. It seems odd that a competent teacher of the art could not have been found in the colonies.

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The recent drought in Australia was very serious, and prayers for rain were universally offered up. The scepticism expressed as to their efficacy elicited the following remarkable utterance from a certain clergyman: "All human beings are stored with electricity, which is either the vital power or acts intimately in connection therewith, and there does not seem much stretch of the imagination required in believing that the body of electricity projected towards the unseen during a fervent and universal appeal to the Almighty may find its answering force in the elements which, as we know, are influenced by electricity and may suffice in accordance with his laws to produce the desired change in the weather." After this who can say that science and religion are in conflict?

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There is a movement in South Australia in favour of natural history and botany being taught in the schools. It is thought that this elementary measure would tend to preserve the rare fauna and flora of the colony, which children so heedlessly destroy.

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The railway authorities in Victoria have just formed a committee whose business it will be to arrange for the education of railway artisans. The men are to be taken to different parts of Australia, and thoroughly taught the whole science of the railway system.

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There has been a "down grade" dispute on a small scale in New Zealand. The Baptist Minister at Tomaru was severely censured by the Baptist Union for preaching "conditional immortality." The congregation, however, does not dislike the heresy, and has passed a vote of confidence in their pastor, who, with the Church, has an income independent of the Union.

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The sheep shearers in Victoria have formed a trades union, and strange to say this step has met with the most cordial approval of their employers. The hostility with which the "squatters" at first regarded the Union has given way to the satisfactory work and good behaviour of its members. The society has already secured a substantial advance in wages.

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It was stated by a clergyman at a recent meeting in Kingston that in Canada there existed a regular trade in dead bodies. In his parish several graves had been desecrated and the bodies stolen. The corpses, it is said, are purchased at Ogdensburg, and despatched to Philadelphia and New York.

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Many are the stories of the effect upon the savage mind of the first sight of European arms and ammunition, but in an interview which some members of the Zambesi Mission had with the King of the Matabele tribe at Gubalawayo, the greatest sensation seems to have been caused by the harmless sewing machine. The King's hostility to the mission was proof against all persuasion until some skin bags were made for him by the machine. Then his Royal Highness at once relented and exclaimed, "What people those English are! They can do anything, and yet they must die like ourselves."

"Can I see him?"

"Ah!—perhaps—if monsieur would not mind waiting. Possibly monsieur has an appointment?"

"No. The General knows me, and I represent a journal."

"I will see that he gets your card. Please walk upstairs."

Every one is treated with equal civility. Some of the humbler citizens, for sheepishness, refuse to go into the antechamber on the floor above, and stand huddled against the panels of the hall, fumbling their dripping hats. It was as well they did, for we were crowded enough upstairs. The General's rule during this campaign is to make no distinction of persons; even old acquaintances must submit. I could see that my turn for an interview was a long way off—two hours off, it proved to be—so I composed myself on a comfortable settee, and took stock of things, as a means of killing time.

WHO ARE THE BESIEGERS?

All sorts and conditions of men. They wore tall hats and round hats and "casquettes" and "képis," which covered the thinking part of Parisians, provincials, workmen and soldiers respectively. There was also a perceptible sprinkling of bonnets, from which you will rightly argue that ladies figure among the General's admirers. I observed several young ladies, and others not quite so young, married ladies, and ladies unmarried, or at any rate single for the afternoon. The company was mostly silent, each unit reflecting perhaps on what sort of a little speech he or she should make by and by. One after one they rose at the summons of a Tunisian darkie, a chocolate-coloured imp in buttons, and followed him up stairs. But others quickly filled their places. Suddenly, a babel of voices and a deputation of some twenty bourgeois descend the stairs, talking to one another in animated tones, and bright all over with smiles. It is like when the gates of a factory unbar of a Saturday morning, and the workpeople throng out with their week's wages jingling in their pockets. Against the window stands out conspicuously a tall and gaudy cage, probably the gift of some admirer, as it sports a top-knot of twisted ribbon, half cream and half carnation—the pink being the general's favourite flower. This beautiful prison is brightly painted and lavishly gilt. The prisoners are two little love birds. For the moment they are perched at opposite sides of the cage with their backs to one another: we all hope it is only for the moment. The room is handsomely furnished. Squares of tapestry adorn the walls, backed against red velvet. A green drugget protects the carpet. On the chimney piece two vases hold superb bouquets of dark carnations, freshly cut. Two side tables groan beneath heaps of illustrated journals, including *Graphics* and *Figaros* and *Illustrated London News*, and Plon's latest albums of sketches and caricatures, some of them representing the "brav' gen'ral" himself.

THE GENERAL AND HIS MAJORITY.

At last! Numbers have gone away tired out. But my patience is rewarded. The imp's brassy and brazen face appears, and his cocoa-coloured finger beckons. (The little monster is only thirteen, and as imperturbable as a statue.) I mount to the General's cabinet—a large, dimly-lit, thick carpeted, oblong room. The General advances and shakes hands. We exchange good wishes for the new year.

"Well, mon Général, what majority do you reckon on for the 27th?"

"A hundred thousand," came the instantaneous reply.

"That's splendid!"

"If the election came off to-morrow I should have 120,000."

"How is the difference accounted for?" I asked.

"Very naturally; we can't always be going forward, though we have done as yet. A moment must come when our numbers remain stationary, or perhaps decrease to a small extent." "Look here," added the General, ceasing for an instant to pace up and down the room, "I'm just like a race-horse!" Then with a grim smile, "You know how they're betting on me; well, I've got right away at once with five or six lengths to the good, and they'll never catch me up. They may diminish my lead, but, mind you, they'll never catch me up." The General resumed his walk, jingling a bunch of keys in his pocket.

"And now, General, I want to ask you a very delicate question."

"Fire away!"

"In the deplorable event of your impeachment before the Senate, which has been vaguely talked about, what measures would you take?"

"Great heavens! only idiots talk about such a thing. I should first have to do something to deserve impeachment. No, no, no! If they tried on that game I should pay them back with a vengeance. Twenty-four hours after I should be in power."

There was something that compelled admiration in the lightning promptness, directness, and sublime confidence of this reply. Imagine what an English diplomat would have said to a question like that which I ventured to ask him, if you want to realize by contrast General Boulanger's method of going to the point.

"And now will you give me a few statistics?"

"With pleasure. I grant interviews personally to about 280 persons a day. This morning alone I spoke to 142. That is without counting the delegations which set foot in this room. They number from 800 to 1,000 persons a day. I see them in groups of about fifty at a time."

"But, General, that leaves you no time for outdoor exercise."

"I don't stir from here; I do without eating and without sleeping. I haven't even a moment to look at what the papers say of me."

Any one could see there was small exaggeration in this. His frame stooped, for all his efforts to keep erect, his voice was husky and tired. He had the jaded yet excited look you might expect to see in the face of a future senior wrangler in the middle of his tripos. It must be said that the General works like a horse. In England his pluck would carry the day, if the sporting feeling were the prominent one in politics.

"One more question, General; shall you attend the Panama meeting on the 26th?"

"Not for worlds!" was the reply, which effectually settled my doubts. "Good-by, then, and when you want me, remember my time is yours."

"Thank you, General!"

We shook hands, and he rang the bell. It was half-past six. Passing out through the ante-chamber, I counted nearly twenty visitors who still remained between the fasting General and his well-earned dinner.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

To the EDITOR *of the* PALL MALL GAZETTE.

SIR,—Pray do me the favour to accept my best thanks for your kind words in my behalf in your issue of this evening, and to allow me to call your readers' attention to a matter, I think, worth their notice. A great deal has been said by Tories all over the country about the wisdom of voting for the best man irrespective of politics. The *Times* states this perfectly. It said on the 10th inst.:—"The electors are bound to vote for the man whom they know or believe to be of the highest character and capacity apart from political considerations." It gives a list of such persons. I was much pleased to see my name. Mr. Firth's is there, of course. In a Tory weekly of to-day there are notes on the London County Council. In one I read "it is not too late to urge on the electors to vote irrespectively of party," because "this election has and ought to have no political significance." In the next one it tells its readers "not to vote" for Mr. Walter Wren or for Mr. Firth. The advice as to me may be good—though what is good enough for the *Times* is good enough for any Tory weekly, however limited its circulation. But I am at a loss to guess how, "irrespective of party," any objections can be raised against Mr. Firth's fitness for the London County Council. It seems to me that he is the fittest of all the candidates for election and that he has *proved* it, (1) by his improvements to the Government bill during its passage through the House of Commons, (2) by his book on "London Government under the Local Government Act"—the value and importance of which it would be hard to over-rate, and (3) by his book on "Municipal London"—to which every one turns for information on the matters of which it treats. I make bold to prophesy that Mr. Firth's book—(No. 2)—will be a handbook to every London County Councillor, who tries to make the Council effective in the matters for which it was called into existence.—Your faithful servant,

WALTER WREN.

Bournemouth, Jan. 12.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

Here is Sir M. Hicks-Beach's programme for the enlightened Unionist party:—

1. Reform of the House of Lords.
2. Reform of the Established Church.
3. Reform of the Procedure of the Commons.
4. Reform of Irish Local Government.
5. Reform of Irish Education.
6. Development of Irish Industries.
7. Increase of the Navy.

Quite an admirable programme. And if Sir Michael could carry it out, he would take the wind out of the sails of the Opposition. But the carrying of it out is just the difficulty. Notwithstanding all that he says concerning that admirable instrument, the Unionist party, he is not likely to get anything done, excepting in the last article of his programme, and that is just the point on which Home Rulers and Unionists are one.

Sir Michael's idea about overcoming obstruction is very much like King Charles's motion of the best way of extinguishing the discontent which was ultimately to flame up in the great civil war. King Charles's short plan with the Puritans was to go down from Whitehall to Westminster and to seize in their places in the House the five members whom he regarded as the ringleaders of the Puritan revolt. Sir Michael's scheme is not unlike it. He says:—

I should like, I confess, to try a resort to an old-fashioned motion, and to propose without amendment or debate that certain persons—very few in number, whom we could very easily name—should no longer be heard in the House of Commons for a week, or a month, or, if necessary, for the whole of the Session.

Why not adopt the much more sensible plan of saying that no one shall speak more than ten minutes upon any bill after it has been debated a certain time. It is in shortening the length of the speeches, not in gagging the speakers, that there is a way of escape from the present *impasse*.

The good results of the visit paid by the Emperor of Germany to the Tzar continue to make themselves visible. Speaking as King of Prussia to the Prussian Diet yesterday the Emperor-King began his Speech from the Throne as follows:—

You can all the more contentedly resume your labours, seeing that the relations of the Empire to all foreign States are friendly, and that in the course of my visits to the various Sovereigns who are my friends I gathered the conviction that we might trustfully indulge in the hope that peace would continue to be preserved.

It is much to be regretted that all those who can trouble the peace of the world either by their writings or their speeches have not had the same opportunities as William II. of knowing how pacific is the resolution of Alexander III.

The enterprising burglar has, we are informed, hit upon a new method of burgling, of which the public should be warned betimes. He disguises himself as a butler or footman, and watches that early bird, the chimney-sweep, when he visits a promising mansion. Then he waits near the door, till the sweep comes out. "Don't shut the door," he says, and the innocent man of soot hearkens to the charmer, supposing that he belongs to the house, and walks away. The burglar walks in, and as no one is about except the cook, who is busy cleaning up her kitchen, he lays hands on what he may and adjourns therewith. Probably the sweep gets the blame, and the burglar chuckles.

One of the most thoughtful Quakers in Ireland is much opposed to Home Rule, because he is confident that its concession would be followed by a wholesale relapse of the Irish into infidelity. He argues in this way. In every Catholic country the popular party is more or less atheistic. In Ireland alone the Church has retained her hold upon the masses because the Church has been their rallying point against England. Remove the political need for the Church, and the same causes which make the Belgian ouvrier a sceptic will make the Irish peasant an enemy of religion. It is our duty to maintain the Union, therefore, as the political goad which drives the Irish democracy into the fold of the Church, that alone helps them to oppose the Union.

Far fetched though this may seem to be, this telegram from Vienna in the *Times* this morning will probably confirm that shrewd Quaker in his opinions:—

The Bulgarian clergy no longer hold the same influential position as they did when the Bulgarians were struggling for independence against Turkey, and when the national Church was the rallying centre for Christians against Mussulmans. In those days money for the building or restoration of a church was always forthcoming, but since the Bulgarians obtained their freedom they have come to think that one church is enough for two or three villages, and they have doled out their money very sparingly to the clergy.

The probability that similar results may follow in Ireland the cessation of Coercion cannot be absent from the mind of the rulers of the Church. It would be interesting to know if it is this underlying dread which made Monsignor Persico and the two or three prelates who inspired his reports oppose the Nationalist cause in Ireland.

The diocese of St. Asaph's has now for some time been practically bishopless, for Dr. Hughes is still unable to resign the see owing to physical helplessness. It is now also deanless. For Mr. James goes to Cheltenham this week to enter upon his duties as head master of the College. As the new Dean has to be appointed by the Bishop the deadlock is consequently greater than ever; and, so far, nothing seems to have come of the Primate's supposed consultations with the law officers. Yet it would be absurd to leave the diocese without Bishop or Dean until Dr. Hughes recovers or dies, which may mean an indefinite period. Why cannot a "next friend" or a "committee" be empowered to sign on behalf of the Bishop, just as is done in the case of persons who are minors or *non compotes?*

The contemporary drawing of the Swan Theatre which excited so much interest when first brought to light about a year ago by Herr Karl Goedertz, has been lent to the British Museum by the University of Utrecht, and is now in the keeping of Dr. Garnett. All doubt of its authenticity is set at rest. The Museum experts have decided that the drawing is by the same hand that wrote the commonplace book in which it occurs—the hand of Arend van Buchell, who was in the habit of making copious extracts from the correspondence of the traveller Johannes de Witt, his compatriot and friend. One question, however, remains: Did Van Buchell copy from a drawing of De Witt's taken on the spot? Or did he merely draw from De Witt's (oral or written) description? As there is ample proof that De Witt was himself something of a draughtsman, the former hypothesis is much the more probable. Thus the drawing may fairly be accepted as the earliest and most instructive representation we possess of the interior of an Elizabethan playhouse.

COUNTY COUNCIL NOTES.

"I hope," writes a correspondent, "that you are going to give us 'the straight tip' as to who to vote for on Thursday next, as you did at the School Board Election." Certainly we are. We shall publish to-morrow the results of a circular of questions which we have addressed to County Council candidates; and whilst giving what our correspondent calls "the straight tip," our summary will at the same time afford materials for those readers who, differing from us in municipal politics, may wish to select other candidates of their own.

* * * * *

A few candidates are very properly making a great point of the necessity of re-apportioning local taxation throughout London. The case is put very well in the joint address of Mr. Branch and Mr. Charles Harrison in S.W. Bethnal-green:—

The "parish" has now become utterly unfit to be the basis of rating. Taking the five years ending with 1886, the rating of the different "parishes" in the metropolis varied from 3*s.* 9*d.* to 6*s.* 7*d.* Thus the poorest parishes pay the heaviest rates; Bethnal-green has been paying 6*s.* 3*d.*; whilst St. James's, Westminster, pays 3*s.* 9*d.*; and St. George's, Hanover-square, pays 3*s.* 10*d.* It is a crying scandal, that, owing to the retention of the old ecclesiastical unit of the "parish," the industry of the East of London has been contributing nearly twice its fair proportion to the rates.

This is a crying injustice, and an equalization of rates between East and West is one of the very things at which the new Council should aim. It is more important really than the taxation of Ground Rents.

* * * * *

Mr. John Burns, the Socialist candidate in Battersea, is running largely as might have been expected on the control of the police question. It is very desirable that the Socialists should have some representation on the new Council, and on that account among others we hope that Mr. Burns will be elected. If he is, his election will be announced on the anniversary of his sentence to six weeks' imprisonment for fighting "the battle of the Square."

* * * * *

For the permanent effects of that battle, one has only to look, by the way, to the addresses of the County Council candidates. It is very remarkable how many of them—and they by no means only amongst the Liberals—are in favour of putting the police under the control of the Council.

* * * * *

The Metropolitan Board of Works is not going to die without trying to make its evil influence survive. It has made the necessary alterations in the Board-room at Spring-gardens to accommodate the members of the new Council; but the provision it has made for the press and for the public are said by Mark Judge to be "absolutely inadequate." How very characteristic!

* * * * *

"The new London Council would be imperfect without the veteran and victorious champion of the right of Londoners to local self government." So said Lord Hobhouse at a meeting the other day in support of Mr. James Beal's candidature in Fulham. Mr. Beal has for thirty years advocated the cause of London Municipal Reform, and if there is any gratitude in municipal politics he should be returned at the head of the poll.

* * * * *

A useful "reminder" has been circulated among the Strand ratepayers to the effect that "Mr. Bonthron, Mr. Ebenezer Saunders, Mr. W. H. Fowler, Mr. Kuntz, Mr. Dresser Rogers, Mr. W. Shepheard, and other members of the Board of Works, forming a majority of twenty-one voted to retain, against seventeen to dismiss, Robertson from the service of the Board, after that official had been convicted by the committee 'of most improper conduct in relation to Villiers's Pavilion job,' and also for allowing his brothers, under the assumed name of 'Grey,' to acquire property from the Board at reduced values." Electors in Hackney, Bermondsey, and Camberwell, please copy.

* * * * *

Whoever else is defeated at the County Council elections for London, the Rev. H. B. Chapman ought to be at the bottom of the poll at Camberwell. Apart from the question whether a clergyman should be a County Councillor, when his clerical duties already absorb so much of his time as to render it impossible for him to attend one meeting in ten of the board of guardians, Mr. Chapman ought to be opposed by every decent man and woman for one distinct and unmistakeable reason. He is the public and avowed advocate of the C.D. Acts, the only candidate, so far as we are aware, in all London who has declared himself in favour of reviving those detestable and immoral measures.

* * * * *

Mr. Chapman, speaking at a smoking concert at the Beaconsfield Club, deplored the block of business in Parliament, because it left no time to renew the C. D. Acts, upon which he pronounced a eulogium that ought to render it impossible for him ever to be accepted as a representative of Englishmen and Englishwomen either on the County Council or any other public body. The County Council for London will sooner or later have power over all the nuisances of London, and it will inevitably be confronted with the question of prostitution. This being the case, an avowed regulationist should no more be elected a County Councillor than a child with the small-pox should be sent into the convalescent ward of a hospital.

* * * * *

We need not say how heartily we agree with the sentiments expressed in the following letter:—

I have gathered from recent conversation with City men that the candidature of Lord Rosebery for the London County Council may possibly, for party reasons, result in failure. In the opinion of men who can shake themselves free from the prejudices of party and desire that the new Councils shall be leavened by high ability and sound administrative capacity, the rejection of Lord Rosebery would be a lamentable blunder. I am a Conservative by tradition and inclination, and yet I can conceive no greater blow to the public service, no worse example to set before the country, than the refusal of the Conservative City electors to be represented in their Council by the Liberal Lord Rosebery. His success would in a great measure free the Councils from the taint of mere parochial Bumbledonism, and it will be a public calamity if the best candidate be rejected by the narrow influences brought to bear by party wire-pullers.

* * * * *

Mr. J. F. B. Firth sends us the following timely and useful caution to voters:—

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act no elector can vote in more than one London electoral division—for instance, an elector who is on the register in South Kensington and also in the City of London can only vote in one of these divisions, but he can vote in whichever he thinks best. This result is due to the effect of the Local Government Act, Clause 2, and of Clause 51 of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, which clause is incorporated in the Local Government Act. By Clause 59 of the Municipal Corporations Act, the presiding officer is required, on the request of a candidate or his agent, or of two county electors, to ask a voter whether he has already voted in any other electoral division, and an untrue answer to this question is by the Act made a *misdemeanour*. The extreme importance of these provisions must be my excuse for troubling you in the matter.

* * * * *

As an instance of parochialism *in excelsis*, here is a passage from the address of a Mr. John Ross, who is opposing Earl Compton in Central Finsbury:—

I have now determined to go to the poll, relying upon the help that I am assured I shall receive from you, my neighbours and friends. It will be remembered by the inhabitants of this parish that I have been amongst you (resident in your midst) since my childhood. I have breathed the same air with you: I know your wants and wishes (I venture to assert) better than any noble earl of blue blood, hereditary landlord, or hereditary legislator. Remember, the Earl was born in luxury; nay, he is surfeited with luxury.

* * * * *

Next to Mr. Beal and Mr. Firth (to whose pre-eminent qualifications Mr. Wren pays a deserved tribute in another column), no candidate knows more about London government than Mr. Æneas Smith, the well-known president of the Eleusis Club, who is standing with Mr. G. W. Osborn in Chelsea. Mr. Smith is a very remarkable man. When nine years old he entered a workshop, and he has now by his industry and integrity fought his way to the front ranks of employers of labour in Chelsea. Mr. Æneas Smith is nominated by Lord Monkswell and Mr. John Morley; but he and Mr. Osborn ought to find support from electors of all parties who want to see the best men in. The other Chelsea candidates would, we are sure, be the first to admit that personally they cannot compare with their two rivals

STARVING ACTORS IN THE STRAND.

TAKE a walk down the Strand any day, starting from Charing-cross. Perhaps the left-hand side will be best for the purpose in view, if you are bent on looking out for actors "in rust"—namely, out of engagements. Alas! you will meet with a goodish few. The characteristics of an actor are unmistakable, but perhaps not more so than those of other professionals. To-day Mr. Irving takes the chair at the Actors' Benevolent Fund, so the following interview may be interesting; the name of the gentleman I determined on interviewing was well known in the theatrical world.

For something like twenty-three years I was manager of the —— Theatre (he commenced), and terminated my connection with Mr. —— only when he himself parted with the house. Since then I have stage managed at the Elephant and Castle, Marylebone, and Sadler's Wells Theatres. I produced "Blue Beard" at the Crystal Palace under the direction of Mr. Augustus Harris, of Drury Lane. My engagement with the latter gentleman being for the run of the pantomime only, of course I had nothing to do at its termination. At intervals I conducted important tours throughout the United Kingdom, acting as stage manager, actor, and business agent, "doubling the parts," as we say, to save expense, to the speculative capitalist supplying the funds needed. My engagements of late have been so brief and with such lengthy intervals that the little I had managed to save when in prosperity beyond the expenses incurred in the bringing up of a family soon went, and for a long time past I have been in a condition of absolute poverty, on some occasions actually being without food for days at a time.

Recently I was engaged to go on tour to Scotland, and soon after found myself stranded at Kinross. I managed to reach Kirkcaldy, and was then entirely without means. I met a captain, and induced him to "frank" me home. Again I was engaged to go on tour—this time to the provinces. I received one week's salary out of four due, and was then left in Norfolk, after paying my lodgings, entirely destitute. The person with whom I had lodged very kindly advanced me a sum sufficient to enable me to reach Norwich, where I hoped to meet a friend. When I reached the latter place I found that my friend was away from home. I stood in the market place, a stranger, without means or lodgings, in a starving condition, and utterly bewildered as to what to do next. Fortunately a theatrical company came into the town: a brother professional was able to advance me enough to take me to Ipswich. There I met with another friendly actor, and by his assistance I managed to reach London. You may guess how my wife fared. I had left her without means, having had the greatest difficulty in securing enough to take me into the provinces. I had not been able to send her any portion of my one week's salary, and hadn't a penny to give her on my return from this my last engagement. An actor is generally looked upon as an improvident, devil-may-care sort of personage, living up to his income in his palmiest days, and never dreaming of making any provision for the future. This is not true: excepting a few isolated cases, actors are among the most provident of men. The public have heard much concerning the handsome salaries paid certain well-known West-end favourites. Those are altogether exceptional cases, and I can give you the names of very many well-known actors of recognized ability—some of whom are at the present time fulfilling engagements at West-end theatres—who would be only too delighted to accept permanent engagements at two guineas per week, and even less.

Why is this?—Simply because an average actor may not be in harness more than five months out of the twelve. This reduces his weekly earnings to less than half. He must keep a good wardrobe, and always turn out in gentlemanly form if he hopes to stand a chance again. Mr. ——, now appearing at —— Theatre with marked success in ——, was overlooked for two years previous to this engagement, which, I need not add, is a perfect godsend to him. Mr. ——, a gentleman who was a great favourite at the Princess's for years, is now reduced to the necessity of taking money at the gallery entrance to the —— Theatre. The trifle he receives for this just keeps him from the workhouse. Mr. ——, a well-known actor, famous as Louis XI., and an excellent comedian, quite in despair of ever obtaining another engagement, now tries to obtain a living by painting posters for travelling booths.

While listening to Mr. —— actors were continually passing us. "That person," he said, pointing to one unmistakably of the "sock and buskin" order, "can give you nearly, if not all, the leading parts of Shakspeare at a moment's notice; he is in fact letter perfect in no end of legitimate parts, and a splendid actor. Well, he is compelled to strut and roar in travelling booths or star e"

"That gentleman (pointing to a portly person with silver locks) is Mr. ——, once a prominent member of Phelps's famous company: he cannot get employment. Here is another, one of the best legitimate comedians we have. He is now always told that he is too old." I have not space to mention the many cases pointed out to me, and particulars of which I obtained from the persons themselves.

Am I to understand you to state that the humblest members of the theatrical profession are in a worse condition than at any other time?—Undoubtedly so.

And what do you consider the chief cause of this state of affairs?—It is due to an entirely new element in connection with the stage; one time it was necessary that an actor should pass through years of training, graduating from the position of a speaker of one or two lines and upwards—going "through the mill" in the provinces, playing any and every part offered him; and when at length he displayed undoubted talent, then he took a position in the profession, and not before. Now what do we find? The three chief essentials for the stage are youth, good looks, and a masher's suit. Men are playing "lead" after an experience of only a few months; they are able to "dress" the part, can do with a very small salary (generally having means of their own), and do not mind in some cases playing for nothing. This is a real hardship to the actor born and bred in the profession, and it is chiefly due to this state of things that the Strand is crowded day after day with trained actors—men who have passed their lives on the "boards," so to speak—unable to procure employment, and in many instances absolutely starving.

Can you suggest any remedy for this?—Yes; we suggest that some few gentlemen, desiring to speculate, and at the same time to do a kindly turn to the unemployed actor, should take one of the closed theatres, and open the same for the purpose of giving employment to neglected actors. There is no reason why the undertaking should not prove a profitable one. We don't ask charity; we want work!

"UNTRODDEN PATHS IN ROUMANIA."

"Untrodden Paths in Roumania." By Mrs. Walker. (Chapman and Hall.) The history of Roumania begins with Decebalus and Trajan. The latest conquest of Rome, and not retained very long, it was, curiously enough, one of the most complete. The language of the colonizing people still remains evident in the speech of the country, though this has been swept by horde after horde of Asiatic invaders. Truly its history is as black and bloody a one as any State can show. One outcome of this history is to be found in the numerous and powerful monasteries. The nobles of Wallachia and Moldavia saw that the best means of handing down their wealth to their descendants, and indeed, it may be said, of preserving it in their own lifetime, was to endow these religious foundations. They made the condition that they were to retain the management of the revenues, and that they were to receive aid when it might be wanted, in their own persons or the persons of their descendants. These monasteries and convents thus became possessed of valuable property and great power; and it certainly speaks much for the religious tolerance of the Turks that they were permitted to retain them. In 1854 Prince Couza secularized them, and it may be argued on behalf of his act, seemingly harsh as it was, that it fulfilled one of the original conditions of their foundation—that they were to give assistance to the State. Mrs. Walker visited some twenty of the more famous of these institutions, now, alas! sadly fallen from their ancient grandeur and state, and was greatly delighted with the friendly hospitality shown to her. The life which she saw here is probably unique, for it preserves, as these have not been preserved elsewhere, the customs of times long past. Of this and of other subjects, Mrs. Walker writes very pleasantly; and her illustrations, though not highly artistic, are interesting.

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DAVID HUME IN NEW LIGHTS.*

THE ninety-nine letters of Hume which have been rescued from dispersal by Lord Rosebery's liberality are admirably edited and annotated by Dr. G. Birkbeck Hill. Their quaint spelling, the peeps they give into social, political, and literary life, and the light they throw upon the animosity between English and Scot, once as great as that between the modern Unionist and the Irish, make them historically valuable, apart from their personal incidents and disclosures. Such words as "undetaking," "woud," "desird," "Jamaca," "dind," "razure," "satyre," and "uneasyness" look strange in the letters of a man who paid so much attention to style, studied English as if it were a foreign tongue, and was so much enamoured of "the new spelling." Yet even in his History Hume omitted *d* in knowledge, *a* in spread, and spelt throughout, thro'-out. He might well find pleasure, as he says he did, in correcting his writings, and form the singular theory that printing was good for the wise because it gave them the power of "continually improving and correcting" their works, while it was bad for others because it caused nonsense to fly about "with greater celerity." His labour in this way was severe, and after taking "incredible pains" with a new edition he writes: "It puts me in mind of a saying of Rousseau's, that one half of man's life is too little to write a Book and the other half to correct it."

There is little about his philosophy in the letters, yet it is singular to find him urging Strahan to influence Wilson, the astronomer, on behalf of Wight, a candidate for the Divinity Professorship at Glasgow, on the ground that "he is a very gentleman-like, agreeable Man: And above all, he is (without which I shoud not interest myself for him) a very sound and orthodox Divine." Very differently had he written of Bishop Warburton when he said, "He and all his gang, the most scurrilous, arrogant, and impudent Fellows in the world, have been abusing me in their usual Style these twenty years;" or of Archbishop Secker, when he heard of George III. that the parsons had "got entire Possession of him;" or of Frederick the Great, in granting religious toleration, when he added: "I wonder how Kings dare be so free: They ought to leave that to their Betters; to men who have no Dependance on the Mob, or the Leaders of the Mob. As to poor Kings they are oblig'd sometimes to retract and to deny their writings." Dr. Birkbeck Hill has discovered on a fly-leaf of Hume's History in the Bodleian a note by the Rev. Charles Godwyn about Hume that shows how he was regarded in 1757. As historian and in private, Hume was excellent, and had "generous sentiments of social virtue." As a speculative philosopher, "there is not a grain of virtue or religion in him." It is added that if Hume "was disposed to make choice of a religion, he would give this (the Church of England) the preference." This is hardly less amusing than Hume's own account of his suppressed essays on Suicide and the Immortality of the Soul, as "bad Imitations of the agreeable *Trifling of* (*sic*) Addison;" or his anxiety to reserve his Dialogues on Natural Religion until after his death, because he was "of late desirous to live quietly, and keep remote from all Clamour." The editor has contributed much matter to the elucidation of the quarrel with Rousseau; and Hume's own letters and instructions about his pamphlet indicate how deeply he was moved by Rousseau's "frenzy," or "fustian," as Horace Walpole preferred to call it. Hume's reply is described by himself, in a letter to Strahan, as "this silly pamphlet sent you," and sooner than be responsible for every attack made in English on his friend, "I assure Mr. Rousseau I would rather answer for every Robbery committed on the high-way; and I am entirely as innocent of the one as the other."

The original letters were to be "deposited in the Museum. The Reason of this is, that Rousseau has been so audacious as to write, that I dare not publish his Letters without falsifying them." The trustees of the British Museum refused to accept them, and they are now in the possession of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. The Hume papers there have been freely used in the notes to the letters now published by the editor, and in one of them Hume writes: "I fancy that 500 Copies of the Account of that ridiculous Affair between Rousseau and me will be more than sufficient to satisfy the curiosity of the Public at London." Hume himself was not free from peevishness, rising into real passion whenever he touched upon politics and Londoners. Probably his reception in France, as a literary man, had spoiled him, or he was somewhat soured at the reception of his writings in England. In his short biography, wisely reprinted in the volume before us, he speaks of his "mortification" on finding Dr. Middleton's "Free Inquiry" more popular than his Essays, and of his "miserable disappointment" at the shafts levelled against him for his apology for the Stuarts, but we have to turn to his letters for a full disclosure of his wrath. He was not less absurd in his diatribes than Rousseau had been in his suspicions. He tells Strahan that his ambition was moderate, and confined to letters, "but it has been my Misfortune to write in the Language of the most stupid and factious Barbarians in the World." He did not want their approbation. Elsewhere he speaks of the "abandon'd Madmen there are in England;" of their being "such a mobbish people;" of the "madness and wickedness of the English," and of their folly and decline. Strahan rebuked him, in a letter preserved in the Edinburgh papers, in which he pronounced the British Empire "still on the increase in power, riches, and consideration," adding, "I wish you saw things in the same light." Hume's virulence about Londoners was almost grotesque. They were "the barbarians who inhabit the banks of the Thames;" their politicians were "scum;" in the City trouble of 1769-70 he would have disfranchised the city; he accused Londoners of increasing the National Debt, which was growing "in every idle War into which the Mob of London are to push every Minister"—from which account we gather that London was Jingo even in 1771; and he attacked Lord North for his timidity. "He bullies Spain and France, and quakes before the Ward of Farringdon Without."

Most of Hume's letters to Strahan are in the main about business matters, but they are full of side-lights on men and things. They were well worth publishing. Dr. Birkbeck Hill's copious notes double their value, and they throw new light on Hume and his politics.

The gentleness, delicacy, and good humour Adam Smith found in his friend are not noteworthy in the letters. They picture for us a shrewd man of letters, dissatisfied with his insufficient fame; an historian, romantic in viewing the past, pessimist in examining the present; a philosopher wishful to give wings to religious speculation, but shaking in his shoes at every advance made in popular power; a critic making as prickly as possible what he believed to be "truth," but seeking to cover his barbs with the thin gauze of a bright and flowing style.

*"Letters of David Hume to William Strahan: now first Edited, with Notes, Index, &c." By G. Birkbeck Hill, D.C.L. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1888.)

TO-DAY'S NEW BOOKS.

[Publishers would greatly oblige by stating the prices of books. Any notices under this head do not preclude further review, should such seem to be necessary.]

"BRET HARTE." "Cressy." (Macmillan and Co.)
[A novel in two volumes.]

GEAREY, CAROLINE. "In Other Lands." (Digby and Long.)
[Chapters on the humorous side of travel, parts of Spain and the Spaniards: the Riviera and cities of Italy; some weeks on Austrian territory; and staying in a Castle in Piedmont. Pp. 264, cloth. Price 3s. 6d.]

LLOYD, THE REV. S. "The Government of Ireland Past, Present, and Prospective." (London: Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.)
[Brief introductions to the various sections of the book are contributed by Mr. Alfred Illingworth, M.P., Mr. Thomas Wayman, M.P., Mr. John Barran, M.P., and Mr. Shaw Lefevre. A useful compilation for Home Rule propagandists. Pp. 452, paper covers. Price 1s.; cloth, 2s. 6d.]

RUBENSTEIN, LOUIS. "Skating as in Canada." (Wyman and Sons.)
[A little treatise of sixty pages, with diagrams. Price 1s.]

Publishers' Announcements.

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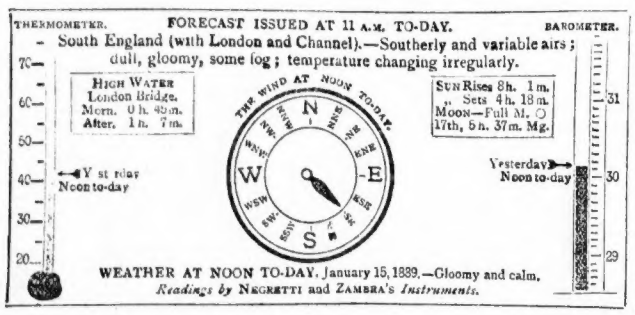
To-day and To-morrow.

TO-DAY.

"The Compound Principle as applied to Locomotives." Discussion at the Institute of Civil Engineers, 25, Great George-street, S.W., 8.
Pathological Society—53, Berners-street, Oxford-street, W., 8.30.
Zoological Society—11, Hanover-square, W., 8.30.
"British West Africa and the Trade of the Interior," by Mr. H. H. Johnston, Colonial Institute, Hôtel Métropole, 8.
"The Amount and Incidence of Imperial Taxation in Different Countries," by Mr. J. S. Jeans, Statistical Society, Royal School of Mines, Jermyn-street, 7.45.
Miss Aitken's Recital—42, Grove-road, Regent's Park, 8.
Elocutionary Recital by Mr. H. Dacres Smith, City Temple, 8.
Old Devonian Club Dinner, Holborn Restaurant.
Independent College, Old Boys' Association, Taunton—Reunion Dinner, Holborn Restaurant.
Banquet to the Court of Aldermen, Mansion House.
Dr. E. Symes Thompson on "Physic," Gresham College, Basinghall-street, 6.
County Council Meetings:—Battersea: Mr. James Tims, Landseer-street Schoolroom, 8. Central Finsbury: Earl Compton, Amwell-street Schools. North Lambeth: Messrs. Ford and Ryalls, Hawkestone Hall, Westminster Bridge-road. North-east Bethnal-green: Messrs. Torr and Wren, Victoria-approach-road, 8. Walworth: Messrs. Marsland and Saunders, Clayton Schools, York-street, 8. Norwood: Mr. W. B. Doubleday, Lecture Hall, Congregational Church, Streatham-hill, 8. West Southwark: Messrs. Haggis and Rhodes, New Surrey Chapel Lecture Hall, 3. Whitechapel: Messrs. Samuels and C. Tarling, Hyman and Lotery's Works, St. Mary's-street, 8. Brixton: Lady Sandhurst and Captain E. H. Verney, Primitive Methodist Schools, Thomas street, 8. Fulham: Mr. J. Beal, Lecture Hall, Dawes road, Walham green, 8. Poplar: The Hon. Richard Grosvenor and J. McDougall, Poplar Town Hall, 8. Paddington: Miss T. G. Fardell and Sir George D. Harris, Paddington Baths, address by Mr. L. Jennings, M.P., 8.30. Rotherhithe: Mr. Carr Gomm, Grammar School, Rotherhithe, 8. Strand: Mr. David Laing, National Schools, Adelaide street, 8. City: Sir J. Lubbock, Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street, 8.
"Possibilities under a Shabby Coat," Rev. T. E. Davies—Stockwell-road Congregational Church, 8.
Self-Education, Miss E. Price Hughes—Wilton-square Literary and Musical Society, New North road.
Carpenters' Company Banquet, 6.30.
Old Blockhamists' Reunion Dinner, at the Holborn Restaurant.
The Forty-sixth Annual Ball, in Aid of the Building Fund of the Butchers' Charitable Institution, Fo man Rooms
Billiards—Championship of the World Tournament, Aquarium, 3 and 8 15.
Actors' Benevolent Fund, Lyceum Theatre, 12.
"The Overgrowth of Population and its Remedy," by Dr. W. Lant Carpenter, Lambeth Baths, 8.30.
Salvation Army, Mass Meeting to welcome Mr. H. H. Booth, Congress Hall, Clapton, 7.30.
Children's Dinner Conference, Cannon-street Hotel, 3.
Concert in aid of the Western Dispensary for Skin Diseases, Steinway Hall, 8.
Confirmation of the Right Rev. W. Stubbs, D.D., to the Bishopric of Oxford, Church of St. Mary-le-Bow, 12.
Salon at Home, Institute of Painters, Piccadilly, 9.
City Meetings.—City Bank, Cannon-street Hotel, 12; Imperial Bank, Lothbury, 1; Central Argentine Land, 85, Palmerston-buildings, 11.30.
Hunting Appointments.—South Berks, Kingwood Common, 11; Essex Union, Upminster Bell, 11; West Kent, Preston Hall, 11.

TO-MORROW.

Dr. E. Symes Thompson on "Physic"—Gresham College, 6.
Ballad Concert, St. James's Hall, 8.
Royal Choral Society (Berlioz's "Faust")—Albert Hall. 8.
Mr. Charles Gardner's Chamber Concert, 10, Warwick-crescent, 3.
Miss Heinrich and Moor's Vocal and Pianoforte Recital, Steinway Hall, 3.
County Council Meetings:—Deptford: Mr. Phillips, Lecture Hall, 8 Limehouse: Messrs. Ambrose and Leon, Limehouse Town Hall, 8. Norwood: Mr. W. B. Doubleday, Mayall-road School-rooms, 8. Strand: Mr. Harris, 17, Dean-street, Soho—Addresses by Mr. Ashmead Bartlett, M.P., the Earl of Onslow, and Mr. F. Lockwood, Q.C., M.P., 8. Fulham: Mr. James Beal, School-room, May-street, 8. West Southwark: Messrs Haggis and Rhodes, Borough-road Congregational Church, 8. Brixton: Lady Sandhurst and Captain Verney—Temperance Demonstration. Strand: Mr. Walter Emden, *People* Office, Milford-lane, 8. East Finsbury: Messrs. Benn and Sinclair, Spencer-place Chapel, Moreland-street, Goswell-road, 8.
Reform of our Land System, by Mr. C. A. Fyffe, London Dialectical Society, Anderton's Hotel, 8.
"The Channel Tunnel," by Colonel Hozier, Society of Arts, John-street, Adelphi, 8.
"Fogs," by Dr. W. Marcet, Meteorological Society, 25, Great George-street, 7.
Entomological Society, 11, Chandos-street, W., 7.
Archæological Association, 32, Sackville-street, W., 8.
"Silicate Cotton as a Fire-proofing Material," by F. M. H. Jones, Inventors' Institute, Chancery-lane, W.C., 8.
"The Modern Aspect of Socialism," by Prince Kropotkin, Socialist League, Kelmscott House, Hammersmith, 8.
Children's Dinner Conference, Cannon-street Hotel. 3.
Salvation Army—Opening of Night Shelter for the Homeless, 61A, St. John's-square, Clerkenwell, 4.30.
Railway Passengers' Protection Association, Westminster Palace Hotel, 5.



The "Old Boys' Association" in connection with the Independent College, Taunton, dined at the Holborn Restaurant last evening. Mr. Samuel Figgis presided, and there were present the Rev. F. W. Aveling, head master of the college, and about sixty "old boys."

FOURTH EDITION.

MR. GREENWOOD AND THE ST. JAMES'S GAZETTE.

The workings of Prince Bismark's Press Bureau have often been referred to in these columns, but many of our readers are sceptical as to the extent to which the German Chancellor seeks to control the press. We have to-day a very extraordinary confirmation of the machinations of the Press Bureau, in the shape of a letter which Mr. Frederick Greenwood, late editor of the *St. James's Gazette* has addressed to the *Manchester Courier*. The London correspondent of the *Sheffield Telegraph* the other day made the following statement without Mr. Greenwood's knowledge:—

There is probably no living Englishman—certainly not outside of official circles—who knows more of the inner and most secret movements of German policy. So damningly accurate and complete is that knowledge that on more than one occasion the German Government has made corrupt overtures to Mr. Greenwood; and it is no secret that it was his indignant rejection of them which led, by somewhat obscure and tortuous ways, to his retirement from the position he had held so long and so honourably. Some day, perhaps, the public may be told the story of the attempts made by Prince Bismarck to "nobble" a journalist whose ample knowledge and frank patriotism formed so serious an obstacle to his plans.

The London correspondent of the *Manchester Courier* having cast doubt upon this assertion, Mr. Frederick Greenwood wrote to the *Manchester Courier* as follows:—

Sir,—Referring to certain rumours (published not only without my consent but without my knowledge), a writer in your paper makes some statements which I am obliged to contradict. He says that my resignation of the editorship of the *St. James's Gazette* "was occasioned by a financial dispute, and had no connection with the policy to be pursued with regard to Germany." That statement is erroneous in both particulars. My resignation was not occasioned by a financial dispute, and "the policy to be pursued with regard to Germany" (if the policy alluded to means a policy of independence) had all to do with it. Further, your correspondent describes as a canard, as untrue, some report that attempts were made to get hold of the *St. James's Gazette* for the use of the German Government. There again he is misinformed, believe me. Some other assertions of his bearing on the same point are equally misleading; but I don't wish to meddle with them.—Yours, &c.,

Garrick Club, January 11. FREDERICK GREENWOOD.

We have it, therefore, on Mr. Greenwood's direct authority that the cause why he left the paper was because "the policy to be pursued with regard to Germany" under the new régime was incompatible with a policy of independence, and further that it is true that attempts were "made to get hold of the *St. James's Gazette* for the use of the German Government."

We understand, however, that M. Steinkopf, the present proprietor of the *St. James's Gazette*, indignantly repudiates his late editor's version of what occurred between them, and denies in the most unqualified terms that his paper has in any way been got hold of by the German Government.

FORTY-TWO PERSONS DROWNED.

Another terrible story of the sea has just come to hand. According to a Reuter's telegram from Singapore to day, the steamer *Pakpoket* has foundered, after having been in collision with another vessel. Forty-two persons were drowned.

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL—POLLING TO-DAY.

Polling opened this morning in about thirty of the electoral divisions of Surrey, the remainder having returned candidates unopposed. At Kingston, Richmond, Barnes, and elsewhere the contest is creating great excitement, and close voting is expected. Politics are excluded in the majority of places. At Richmond (three seats) a working man temperance candidate promises to run two Conservatives and two Liberals very closely. At Kingston, Sir William Hardman is opposed by Mr. Hodgson, Liberal candidate for the division at the last general election.

THE KING OF HOLLAND SLIGHTLY BETTER.

The official bulletin issued from the castle of Loo this morning (says Reuter) announces that the King passed a quiet night, and that his Majesty's present condition shows a slight improvement.

ARREST OF MR. JOHN O'CONNOR, M.P.

After a race of nearly three miles Mr. John O'Connor, M.P., was yesterday taken into custody at Hustinfield, county Mayo. A very excited multitude followed the police and violent scenes were threatened. Mr. O'Connor refused to walk to Charlestown with the police, but was dragged along. Canon Loftus vehemently protested against the treatment to which Mr. O'Connor had been subjected, and Mr. O'Connor himself protested against the illegality of the proceeding.

THE EMPRESS FREDERICK'S FORTUNE.

Lord Cross was summoned to Osborne last Thursday for a private conference with the Queen and the Empress Frederick concerning the disposal of that part of the Emperor Frederick's fortune which he left to trustees (her Majesty, the King of the Belgians, and the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha) for the benefit of his widow and younger children, with a special direction that it was to be invested in British securities. The late Emperor's fortune was wholly derived from his father, Kaiser William, and he left a large sum to the Empress absolutely, out of which her Imperial Majesty has expended about £40,000 in the purchase of a residence and estate at Kronberg in the Taunus.—*World.*

THE MADRAS DOMESTIC TROUBLE.

"Lady Connemara" (says the *World*) "has returned to Government House, and the recent difference between her and Lord Connemara has been adjusted. It is said that she will come back to England during this year for a change, as she has not been strong lately. Lady Eva and Captain Quin are in India, travelling in Nepaul, and return to England in March. I hear that Major Chisholm for the present remains as Military Secretary."

LORD HARRIS NOT GOING TO BOMBAY.

Speaking at Sittingbourne yesterday evening, Lord Harris, Under-Secretary for War, referred to the rumour of his appointment as Governor of Bombay. His lordship emphatically denied that the statement was true, remarking that he himself knew nothing of it.

THE NEXT AMERICAN MINISTER TO ENGLAND.

It is now stated in New York (according to a *Sheffield Telegraph* correspondent) that Senator Evarts, formerly Secretary of State, under President Hayes, and since then Chief Commissioner of the United States at the International Monetary Conference in Paris, is likely to accept the post of Minister to England. The appointment, the correspondent adds, would be exceedingly satisfactory in every way.

A WARM RECEPTION FOR BURGLARS.

Early on Sunday morning two men made a determined attempt to break into the premises of Mr. Otto Spiegelhalter, jeweller, 75, Mile-end-road. The inmates, however, were disturbed by the efforts of the men, and fired no less than seven shots at them as they beat a hasty retreat. It is not known whether any of the shots took effect.

A WELSH POSTMASTER'S BREACH OF DISCIPLINE.

The Postmaster-General has, after a personal correspondence with Mr. Ellis Nanney, J.P., suspended from duty the Criccieth postmaster, Mr. Roberts, pending the County Council elections, after which his case will be finally considered. It is alleged that Mr. Roberts attended a meeting of Mr. Ellis Nanney's supporters after he had been expressly warned not to do so.

BRIGHTON RAILWAY DIVIDEND.

The directors of the Brighton Railway Company announce a distribution on the Ordinary stock for the past half-year at the rate of 8¼ per cent. per annum, carrying forward £11,000. For the second half of 1887 the dividend was 8 per cent., and £6,438 was carried forward.

REPORTED CAPTURE OF "JACK THE RIPPER."

A STRANGE STORY FROM TUNIS.

A Reuter's telegram from Paris this morning says:—The *Petit Journal* publishes a telegram from Tunis of yesterday's date stating that the police there have captured a band of robbers and assassins, and that several suspicious circumstances give rise to the supposition that the London murderer known as Jack the Ripper is among the number. The arrest caused great excitement. The British Consul demanded to see the man in custody, and immediately afterwards telegraphed to the authorities in London. Three examining magistrates are permanently sitting.

Inquiry at Scotland-yard this morning elicited the information that nothing was known there of any such telegram as is mentioned as having been sent by the British Consul.

LONDON AND GLASGOW DYNAMITE EXPLOSIONS.

MORE ABOUT MOONEY'S CONFESSION.

A man named Thomas J. Mooney, who was arrested last summer for landing a dynamite bomb on the deck of the English steamship *Queen* then lying in New York, has been avowing to an interviewer that he was the perpetrator of the various memorable explosions for which, as he says, innocent men are now suffering—namely, the Glasgow gasometer explosion, the attempt on the *Times* offices, and the bursting of bombs at the House of Commons. He describes how he fabricated his explosives, the precautions taken not to destroy the lives of policemen, &c., and how, after firing the fuse near the House of Commons, he retired to Westminster Bridge, there to await the explosion he knew must follow. True or not true, says the *Daily Telegraph* correspondent, his description is graphic. "Just as I got to the bridge a ball of fire shot through the air, and I felt a fine electric shock. The crawling thunder ran out, followed by a vibration of the bridge under my feet, while the House of Commons moved to and fro as if shaken by an earthquake. Then I knew that the first dynamite gun of the war had been fired, and that it would take the muzzle off Parnell. As I stood on the bridge, just after the explosion, I was very much amused to see the English members of Parliament running out of the House bare-headed, looking up and down and round about like so many terrified monkeys in a menagerie, fearing that the roof would fall, or the tottering walls engulf them." He then relates how he returned to his lodging to prepare a shell, wherewith to terrorise the *Times*. This, he declares, was filled more with sawdust than dynamite, and was only intended to make a row. He appeals against the injustice of incarcerating guiltless men, but it will be observed that he does not give himself up to suffer in their place.

THE BURGLARY AT MUSWELL HILL.

The bulletin issued at Norton Lees this morning states that Mr. George Atkin continues in the same condition, and there are no unfavourable symptoms

MR. BRIGHT IN THE OLD ARMCHAIR.

Mr. Bright sat in his chair by his bedroom fire from six in the evening yesterday until nine. He appeared none the worse by this extension of one hour, and was in the best of spirits. He spent a comfortable day, and slept six hours during Sunday night.

AMERICAN WAR VESSEL ORDERED TO SAMOA.

News comes from New York that Admiral Kimberley, commanding the United States squadron on the Pacific station, has received orders to proceed, in the corvette *Trenton*, now at Panama, to Samoa in order to protect American interests at that place. Several other war vessels will be despatched to the Isthmus of Panama, where trouble is apprehended.

MR. JOHN DILLON'S TRIP TO THE ANTIPODES.

Mr. John Dillon sails for Australia on the 1st of February, having taken his passage in one of the Orient Line of steamers. He is just now in a condition that causes some anxiety to his friends, who will be glad to see him safely out of Ireland. The temptation to take part in public meetings is very strong, and no one can say when he may not break through the restrictions that bind him, and appear upon the public platform. In his present state of health such a proceeding might be followed by disastrous results.

THE NEW SOUTH WALES MINISTRY.

The Hon. G. R. Dibbs has succeeded in forming a new Ministry, although the offices of Lands, Public Instruction, and Public Works are still unfilled. The following are the members of the new Ministry as at present constituted:—Mr. G. R. Dibbs, Colonial Secretary; Mr. J. P. Garvan, Colonial Treasurer; Mr. T. M. Slattery, Minister of Justice; Mr. Chanter, Secretary of Mines; Mr. Clarke, Postmaster-General; Mr. Barton, Attorney-General.

EMPRESS FREDERICK AND MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS.

Noticing the visit of the Empress Frederick to the Stuart Exhibition on Saturday, the London correspondent of the *Leeds Mercury* says the Empress spent more than an hour examining the various objects of interest, but was most attracted by the portraits and miniatures. She stood for some time before the portrait of Mary Queen of Scots—lent by Blair College—in which is represented the execution at Fotheringay—and was heard to say, "Poor Mary, poor Mary! If I had lived two hundred years ago, my head would have been cut off two or three times." *Hibernicis ipsis Hibernior!*

SUDDEN DEATH IN AN OMNIBUS.

At about eleven o'clock last night an elderly lady entered a City omnibus at the Queen's Arms, Kilburn, to ride to Brondesbury. On arriving at the Palmerston Hotel the conductor found that the lady was dead. A purse containing £2 in gold and some silver, also a paper on which was written the name "Sharratt," were found on the body, but there was nothing else to lead to identification. The remains were taken on an ambulance to the Hampstead mortuary.

BROOKS'S CLUB.

Brooks's Club, not to be outdone by its historic rival, White's, is about to put its house in order. A scheme is on foot, says the London correspondent of the *Sheffield Telegraph*, for taking in two houses at the back (which already belong to the club), and making them into large and magnificent rooms. The cost of this alteration will not be less than £12,000. By and by, the old-fashioned London club-house will have completely disappeared. It is all very well to decry temples of luxury and ease, but clearly they are the fashion.

ENGLISH MUSIC IN GERMANY.

Mr. Charles Villiers Stanford conducted a performance at the "Philharmonic" Concert at Berlin last night, at which the programme consisted exclusively of his own compositions. The house was very well filled, and the reception given to the English composer was extremely friendly and gratifying. The orchestra justified its reputation, and Herr von Milde, an excellent baritone, was well received. Mr. Stanford made his first appearance at Berlin last year with his "Irish" Symphony, and his popularity in the Berlin musical world has, says the *Daily News* correspondent, been increased by this, his second visit. To-day he goes to Dresden to conduct the "Irish" Symphony at the Gewerbehaus Concert.

FUNERAL OF THE MURDERED GIRL AT GODALMING.

The funeral of the murdered girl Emily Joy was the occasion yesterday of a remarkable demonstration of sympathy and respect for the relatives. The interment took place in the Godalming Cemetery, the deceased being buried by the side of her late father. The vicar of Godalming (the Rev. L. N. Burrows) officiated, assisted by the Rev. S. D. Titmas. A crowd of between 3,000 and 4,000 people assembled at the grave side, and manifested the deepest reverence. The coffin bore the following inscription:—"Emily Joy, died January 7, 1889. Aged 19 years. In the midst of life we are in death." The funeral expenses were defrayed by public subscription, and it is proposed to erect a memorial stone to the memory of the deceased girl. Another letter has been received from the self-confessed murderer, by the girl's mother, in which the writer says:—"I am longing to see you all before I part for ever. Darling Emily died very happy. The last words she said were 'Good bye, darling, I'm dying.' I promised her I should die with her, but I feel that God has forgiven me, and I also feel very happy that I am prepared to die at any moment. Darling family, do come and see me for the last time, and I will tell you all about it." None of the family of the murdered girl have visited he accused.

THE PARNELL COMMISSION.

FRESH APPLICATIONS FOR CONTEMPT.

THE CASES OF MR. O'BRIEN AND THE WARDEN OF MERTON

The Parnell Commission resumed this morning with a manifest renewal of the public interest, but the stimulating influence was no doubt the personal incidents which were anticipated. Mr. W. O'Brien was early in his place along with Mr. Davitt, Mr. Biggar, and Mr. W. Redmond, shorn of his lovelocks. Lord Colville of Culross scanned with a pair of opera glasses the leading personages from a corner of the jury-box, and Lord Monkswell occupied a seat beside the members of the bar. All the counsel engaged were present. Mr. George Lewis on his arrival, was heartily greeted by the Attorney-General and Mr. Macdonald, of the *Times*, as if there had never been a point of difference between them. The bench were not so prompt as usual, and did not enter the court until 10.42.

An Application and an Appeal.

Sir Charles Russell at once made an *ex parte* application for an order to serve notice upon Charles Henry Birkbeck, the proprietor and publisher of the *Worcester Daily Times and Journal*, with respect to an article which appeared on the 1st of this month, and which he submitted constituted a contempt of court. The article dealt with Mr. Gladstone's estimate of O'Connell's character, and proceeded to contrast the Liberator with the leaders of the Nationalist party. The Liberator was warmly loyal, but the Parnellites could not conceal their disloyalty. O'Connell never advocated intimidation and robbery, but they were the promoters of organized embezzlement, relying largely on murderous methods. They were the receivers of wages from men in America who advocated the use of dynamite and the perpetration of the worst crimes. And so on. Sir Charles could not doubt that their lordships would be of opinion that a publication of this kind was one that could not be tolerated by the court during the pendency of the proceedings. He had abstained from making as frequently as he had been asked these applications, but publications of the kind were appearing again and again all over the country.

After some consultation, Sir James Hannen, in a manifestly grieved tone, remarked that these applications imposed upon the court a much more serious and distressing burden than the inquiry itself. He hoped that counsel would bring about some accommodation in this matter, and that they would use their influence with those who were in sympathy with either side in the controversy, so as to put an end to these repeated interferences with the inquiry. They would deal with the application later on when they heard the other applications of a kindred nature.

Mr. O'Brien's Defence.

The Attorney-General said he had to ask their lordships to deal with the one in *United Ireland*.

Mr. Reid having stated that while he represented Mr. Wm. O'Brien generally, that gentleman would upon this occasion represent himself,

Mr. O'Brien rose to address the court. With their lordships' permission he would very briefly explain his position in the matter. He accepted the fullest responsibility for the article which had been cited, though, as a matter of fact, he did not write it himself. So far as it might be held to imply anything like personal disrespect or discourtesy, he willingly expressed regret. Everybody must recognise that their lordships were engaged in a work not of their own seeking, and he entirely disclaimed any intention to impute that they were not following out conscientiously the lines which the Act of Parliament imposed upon them. But he believed it was the duty of journalists like himself to comment upon the way in which the prosecution was conducted. The proceedings in this court differed entirely from proceedings in an ordinary court of justice, inasmuch as the inquiry was ordered by Parliament for purely political purposes. Therefore the restrictions upon the right of public comment, which in an ordinary case would be perfectly proper, are inapplicable and would be intolerable if applied to an inquiry of this kind, which ranges over the whole history of Ireland for the last ten years. If they were to be precluded from discussing the procedure of the prosecution the effect would be practically to suspend public life in Ireland altogether and for an indefinite period. This suspension of public life would be on one side and one side only. The persons making the application were still at liberty to continue their work of defamation—"Parnellism and Crime" was still openly advertised and openly sold. He held in his hand a book of nearly four hundred pages, published since these proceedings had commenced, and entitled "Parnellism and Crime, Special Commission, Part I." It contained the opening speech of the Attorney-General, and the whole book was packed with *ex parte* statements of the chief counsel for the *Times*. And they came into court and applied for punishment against him, who in one leading article had tried to counteract the effect of the frightful poison they were disseminating throughout the country. He had no desire to plead a *tu quoque*: he merely brought these things forward to show that the enforcement of the law of contempt would necessarily have but a one-sided operation. They would have to remain exposed to a constant "drip drip" of defamatory matter, while their mouths remained closed as to the means employed against them, means which constituted an unfair and wicked abuse by the *Times* of the opportunity afforded them by the Commission.

MR. W. O'BRIEN.

A Matter of Political Squabble.

The matter was a political one; the Commission originated in political squabbles, and when removed from the atmosphere of the court would end in political squabbles. He did not for a moment desire to question their lordships' rulings on the admissibility of evidence; but he claimed that he was entitled in the fullest manner to criticise the dilatory tactics of the *Times* in reference to the substantial allegations, as to which they had offered no evidence. Having referred to the main charge of "Parnellism and Crime," Mr. O'Brien said: "If it was proved it would render all the rest of the inquiry utterly superfluous, because there was not a man of the Irish party that did not proudly acknowledge himself bound by every act of their leader, and there was not a man of them that would ever hold up his head in public life again if once that leader were proved to be in open and direct correspondence and companionship with assassins."

The "Times" Utilizing its Delays.

He contended that his line of comment was not in the first place contempt of court because it was perfectly legitimate and perfectly inevitable comment upon the tactics of the prosecution. It had come to their knowledge that the delay the *Times* was securing was being utilized to procure purchased evidence. Dangerous and scandalous inducements were being offered for evidence in convict prisons in Ireland and in the liquor saloons of America.

The Object not to obstruct, but to facilitate Justice.

Having, he thought, made it clear that it was absurd to say that the article could bias the court, he had to say a word as to the only other objection to it, which was that it might intimidate witnesses. He entirely repudiated, and in the strongest language he could command, the notion that either he or any of his colleagues had the remotest desire to intimidate or discourage or obstruct witnesses in this case. Their whole interest was all the other way. The whole aim of the article was that the truth of the charges should be investigated promptly, straightforwardly, and decisively. Having dealt with the cases in which names were mentioned, he argued that the effect was not to obstruct but to facilitate justice, and he submitted that if they were prevented from taking the course they did it would not forward the interests of the inquiry, but would inflict a most cruel and intolerable wrong upon them.

He expressed regret for any language in any degree offensive to members of the court, but looking over the article, in its entirety, in substance and in fact, he was sorry to say he could find nothing whatever for which he could express honest regret, and which it might not be a solemn duty to repeat.

Sir Richard Webster's Reply.

The Attorney-General replied in a subdued tone in contrast to the fiery style of Mr. O'Brien. He could not see how the claim set up by Mr. O'Brien could be admitted for a moment. As to the counter publication complained of, it was nothing more than a note of the proceedings, without a word of comment. If this article was to be permitted to pass, then it came to this, that one of the persons charged might slander the tribunal, might slander the person opposed to him, and might, in connection with these slanders, prejudge the issues, and apply to that prejudgment any amount of epithet he chose. The effect of these articles in Ireland would be not merely to discredit the tribunal but to discredit those who were appearing and representing the *Times*, and to indicate to persons who might have knowledge of these transactions that they were being asked to give evidence for people utterly unworthy of respect and esteem.

The Court Reserves Judgment.

Sir James Hannen said they would reserve their judgment till to-morrow.

Mr. O'Brien hoped the court would take into consideration the volume published by the *Times* which had the significant heading "Parnellism and Crime."

The Warden of Merton's Humour Certified.

Mr. Lyttelton next dealt with the case of Mr. Brodrick, the Warden of Merton. Mr. Brodrick regretted the delay between the delivery of the speech and the explanation now offered, during which time the serious comments which Mr. Reed made upon Mr. Brodrick's language were allowed to remain uncontradicted. Mr. Brodrick declared by affidavit that a wrong meaning had been attached to the words used. Mr. Brodrick was addressing at the time a private assembly mainly composed of Oxford undergraduates, and his object was to ridicule by good-humoured banter the spirit of innovation shown by some of the undergatuates. It was, therefore, out of mere extravagance that the supposed parallel was drawn between those who appeared before the court and "Jack the Ripper." It was a climax and a *reductio ad absurdam*, and although it might not have been the most felicitous illustration, he had not the remotest intention of associating the Irish members with the Whitechapel murderer. If he had erred he expressed regret, but his intention was perfectly innocent, and he hoped the court would acquit him of any offence when he declared on his honour that he meant none. Mr. Lyttelton added that the joke would have been accepted by any English or Irish audience, but he did not know how it might affect his learned friend Mr. Reed. (Laughter.)

Mr. Reed hoped his learned friend did not present this as a specimen of English humour. He must believe that it was Mr. Brodrick's intention to make a joke when he said so, but he found it hard to believe that the audience accepted it as such. Even when this humour was certified by affidavit, he could not approve of it. His friends regarded it as an insult, and felt that they were entitled to object to it. His learned friends seemed to think that he made this application as a sort of *tu quoque*. In one sense it was a *tu quoque* application: when applications of this kind were made on one side it was quite impossible to suppose that the other side would remain silent.

Mr. Lyttelton repeated that if any fair-minded man could say that these words had the interpretation put upon them Mr. Brodrick most freely and frankly disavowed them and apologised for them.

Sir James Hannen thought there was no difficulty whatever in accepting Mr. Brodrick's assurance that he had no intention of conveying the meaning which at first seemed probable. He thought, moreover, that Mr. Brodrick had expressed in a becoming manner his regret that such an interpretation should be given of his words. Under these circumstances he thought that Mr. Reid and his clients must feel satisfied, and that the matter did not call for any further interference on the part of the court.

Shortening the Business.

The Attorney-General said they had been carefully considering the question of shortening the proceedings of the inquiry. This he proposed to do—(1) by producing neutral statistics, and he had a return prepared from parliamentary papers for this purpose; and (2) by producing a report which Sir Wm. Kay, the solicitor to the Irish Under-Secretary, had offered to compile from the Constabulary Outrage Books. He should, however, find it necessary to call a few more land agents; and it would also be necessary to deal with speeches, but these would not take long. As to the letters, the Attorney-General said: "I hope we shall have so far advanced as to be able to take that part of the case in the course of next week." "I am pleased to find you hope that," remarked Sir James Hannen, smiling. After the letters (continued the Attorney-General) he hoped to take the American connection.

HON. ARTILLERY COMPANY TO RESUME DRILL.

LETTERS FROM THE PRINCE OF WALES.

Though the Hon. Artillery Company is still without arms—these remaining at the Tower and Woolwich since their withdrawal last month—and though no new lieutenant-colonel and adjutant have been appointed in the place of the Duke of Portland and Colonel Borton, Major Mainwaring Jones, the officer left at the head of the company, yesterday issued a regimental order directing the members to resume drill on Thursday next, and continue drilling on all Mondays and Thursdays, and indicating the improved relations between the military authorities of the War Office and the Company. The drills for the present will proceed without arms, as, indeed, has been the usual custom of the Company for many years past at the commencement of the season, so that no present inconvenience will be experienced by the absence of the rifles and field guns.

In the evening the Court of Assistants of the Company met at the Armoury House, Finsbury, when there was a very full attendance of the Assistants. Major Durrant presided. A letter was read from General Probyn, on behalf of the Prince of Wales, in reply to the protest which had been sent from the previous Court to his Royal Highness, denying as false the statement that the mention of the Prince's name had been received with audible signs of disrespect. General Probyn's letter, dated December 28, expressed his Royal Highness's pleasure and gratification at receiving the statement that the jeers and hooting were not at the mention of his name, and also at receiving expressions of the loyalty of the Court. Mr. Bosanquet moved a resolution, which was finally adopted, in the following terms:—"In respect to the charges of insubordination brought against the regiment, this Court invites full inquiry by the War Office authorities, and pledges itself to forward such inquiry by every means in its power."

It was announced in the course of the meeting that the Prince of Wales, by a letter dated the 12th inst., and forwarded through Lord Colvile of Cullross, the president of the Company, had resigned his membership of the Company (as distinct from the Captain Generalship); and the Court directed a letter to be sent to the late Captain General, expressing its regret at the receipt of his resignation. Letters were also received from the Duke of Portland and Colonel Borton, intimating their retirement from the Company.

THE FRENCH PREMIER CHALLENGED TO A DUEL.

A hot dispute took place yesterday afternoon in the lobby of the French Chamber between M. Floquet and M. Laur, the Boulangist member for Saint Etienne. According to the *Daily News* correspondent, the Premier, meeting M. Laur, stopped him and told him, in the presence of a number of deputies, that the statements he had made in the morning's *Presse* were a disgraceful tissue of lies. One of the statements referred to was to the effect that M. Floquet had used public funds for the anti-Boulangist campaign. M. Floquet called upon M. Laur to repeat his charges in the tribune and to substantiate them. M. Laur was somewhat cowed at this, as all the bystanders seemed to be against him, but he replied that if M. Floquet would consent to submit the case to a jury of honour he would abide by its decision. Until then M. Floquet should not be astonished if the members of the National party defended themselves against the virulent attacks made by Republicans. M. Laur added that unless M. Floquet withdrew the insulting words he had used he (M. Laur) would send him his seconds. The Premier refused to withdraw anything, and added: "I defy you to show that 30,000 f. were drawn from the Penitentiary Fund for the purpose you allege. I deny all your other charges, and if you send me any seconds I will not see them." M. Laur thereupon left the lobby, and was heard to say in the outer lobby that unless M. Floquet made a retractation he would send a bullet into him. However, M. Laur is known to be less dangerous than he pretends to be. The Premier's determined behaviour meets with general approval.

WHEN MR. GENT-DAVIS WILL EXPLAIN.

It is stated that Mr. Gent-Davis, M.P., had arranged to hold a meeting at the Horns Tavern, Kennington, on the 24th inst., for the purpose of explaining to his constituents the circumstances which led to his recent committal for contempt of court by a judge of the Chancery Division. Since his release, however, he finds, on consultation with his legal adviser, that the statement he desires to make can be more competently made upon a question of privilege in the House of Commons. He has therefore postponed the intended meeting until after the assembling of Parliament.

The health of the Bishop of Durham has improved within the last few days.

The Earl and Countess Granville and Sir Lyon and Lady Playfair left London yesterday afternoon for Sandringham, on a visit to the Prince and Princess of Wales, in order to meet the Empress Frederick of Germany.

Sir John Gorst has only gone to Teneriffe, where he purposes spending a few weeks.

The Emperor William, who is Colonel of the Wyborg Infantry in the Russian Army, has sent his regiment a New Year's gift in the shape of a splendid banner embroidered and fringed with gold.

The freedom of Leeds is to be formally conferred upon Colonel North on the 25th inst., and in the evening of the same day the Mayor will entertain Colonel North and the members of the Corporation at dinner in his rooms at the Town-hall.

Mr. W. H. Smith is still staying at the Hotel Victoria. He has been making long excursions in the charming environs of Monte Carlo, and his health is now very much improved. Mr. C. T. Ritchie joined Mr. Smith on Saturday at the same hotel.

The Central National Society for Women's Suffrage, which has now existed for seventeen years, claims to be absolutely non-party in character. Its object is to obtain the parliamentary franchise for duly qualified women. Funds to carry on the agitation, however, having reached a low ebb, the secretary of the society is now making earnest requests for £1,000 to help her.

THE MONEY MARKET.

Half-past One.

MARKETS GENERALLY STEADY.—PAUSE IN THE UPWARD MOVEMENT.—CHANGES SLIGHT.—BRIGHTON RAILWAY DIVIDEND.

There is no change to report in the condition of the Money Market. The supply of loanable capital is still so abundant that lenders have difficulty in disposing of their surplus cash at remunerative rates. The nominal quotation for short loans is 2 to 2¼ per cent., the former being for the day and the latter for advances over to-morrow, which will be pay day on the Stock Exchange. Bill brokers still complain of the scarcity of bills, and in face of the Continental inquiry for paper it is found impossible to keep the rate firm. For three months' bank paper the general charge is 2¾ per cent., but as a matter of fact business is accepted below that figure. A considerable amount of money is changing hands to-day in connection with various calls falling due on recent issues of capital, amounting in the aggregate to a considerable sum.

The principal feature of interest on the Stock Exchange has been the announcement of the Brighton Railway dividend, which, however, has had no particular effect, as it is about what was anticipated. The upward movement which set in yesterday has not made much further progress, but markets as a rule present a steady to firm appearance. Consols show no alteration, while in the Home Railway market the variations in no instance exceed ¼, being mostly in the upward direction however, except in the case of Scotch descriptions which show a slight reaction. Foreign Government Bonds are firm and generally higher to a fractional extent, being favourably affected by the tenor of the German Emperor's speech yesterday. American Railroads have risen in response to the advance in New York yesterday, but business is on a comparatively small scale, and the movements are not important. Trunks are dull, but Mexican Railway issues have been bought on the traffic, showing a total take for the week of £20,900, an increase compared with the corresponding week last year of £5,500.

We made reference a few days ago to a proposal to form a Tea Investment Trust, and mentioned that so far nothing had come of it. We learn, however that the idea has not been abandoned, and that efforts are being made in suitable quarters to give it practical shape. The intention is not to confine the trust to tea, but to include jute and other Indian produce. An investment company of this kind would be favourably received by holders of shares in tea companies, as it would enable these securities to be disposed of more easily than at present.

Messrs. Bell Brothers (Limited), of Middlesbrough, have disposed of their salt property to the Salt Union (Limited).

The Municipal Council of Madrid have approved of a report of its budget Committee, recommending a loan of four millions sterling, in the shape of a Six per Cent. Stock redeemable in sixty years, the interest payable in London, Paris, and Madrid, to be guaranteed by the revenue from the municipal octroi duties. Madrid, German, English, and French bankers have expressed their willingness to float the loan if the Government will guarantee at least the payment of the coupons, but it is not considered probable that the Cortes or the Minister of Finance will do so.

Mr. Corbin has been re-elected president of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company, with the old board of management. The gross receipts in the year were 39,638,989 dols., and the expenses 29,961,001 dols., the net earnings being 9,677,988 dols. The fixed charges were 8,233,888 dols., and thus a net profit of 1,444,100 dols. is left. As compared with the figures for the previous year the net earnings decreased to the extent of 2,752,065 dols., but the reorganization having reduced the fixed charges by 1,338,899 dols., the net profit is only decreased by 1,413,166 dols. The railroad was operated with an expenditure equal to 54.6 per cent. of the gross earnings, while the net earnings equalled 4.7 per cent. on the total valuation of the whole property.

The following dividends have been declared:—Lloyds Barnetts and Bosanquets Bank at the rate of 15 per cent. per annum. They add £25,000 to the reserve fund, and carry forward £4,000. The Leeds and County Bank (Limited) at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum. The Maritime Insurance Company declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent. on June 15, and the directors recommend a further dividend of 5 per cent., making a total distribution of 10 per cent. for the year, and leaving £9,364 to be carried forward. The Union Marine Insurance Company (Limited) have transferred £15,000 to the reserve fund, which will now stand at £125,000, leaving £59,360, out of which an interim dividend of 3s. 6d. per share has already been paid, and the directors now recommend a further dividend of 3s. 6d. per share, making a distribution for the year of 10 per cent. The Reliance Marine Insurance Company (Limited), for the past year of 4s. per share, being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, bringing forward a balance of £9,268 8s. 8d. The International Marine Insurance Company (Limited) 3s. per share, equal to 7½ per cent. per annum; £5,000 has been added to the reserve fund, and £16,038 carried forward. The Dooars Tea Company an interim dividend on account of the profits of 1888 at the rate of 4s. per fully paid share, being a distribution for the half-year at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—Market opened quiet, with a poor demand. Probable sales 8,000 or 10,000 bales. Prices on the spot are steady. Futures remain unchanged.

The following are the latest changes compared with yesterday's closing prices:—

HOME RAILWAYS.—*Improved*: Brighton and South Eastern Deferred ¼, Great Eastern and Sheffield Deferred ⅛. *Lower*: Hull and Barnsley and Chatham Preference ½, Caledonian, North British Preferred and Deferred ⅛ each.

FOREIGN STOCKS.—*Advanced*: French Three per Cents., Hungarian Gold, and Greek 1881 ¼ each, Egyptian Preference, and Daira ⅛, Portuguese, Russian 1873, and Turkish Group 2 ⅛, and Spanish Four per Cents. 1-16. *Declined*: Uruguay Bonds ¼, Peruvian 1870 ⅛, and the 1872 1-16.

AMERICAN RAILWAYS.—*Risen*: Erie Second Mortgage ½, the shares ¾, Denver Preference ½, the Ordinary ¼, Wabash Preference ½, the Mortgage ¼, Lake Shore and Pennsylvania shares ⅜, Milwaukee and St. Paul, Norfolk and Western Preference, and Ohio and Mississippi Ordinary ¼, Central Pacific and Louisville and Nashville Shares, and Atlantic First Mortgage ⅛. *Fallen*: Union Pacific ⅜, and Northern Pacific Preference ⅛.

CANADIAN AND FOREIGN RAILWAYS.—*Higher*: Mexican Second Preference ½, the First Preference 1, the Ordinary 1½, and Grand Trunk Guaranteed ½. *Lower*: Grand Trunk First and Third Preferences ⅛, and the Ordinary 1-16.

MINES AND MISCELLANEOUS.—*Improved*: De Beers ⅜, and Rio Tinto 1-16. *Receded*: Spratts ⅛.

The following are this day's 1 o'clock prices of the principal Stocks and Shares:—

BRITISH FUNDS, ETC.		
Consols	99⅞	100⅛
New Consols (2¾)	99⅛	⅜
Reduced 3 p. c.	100¼	⅜
Local Loan Stock	103⅛	⅜
New 2½ per Cent.	95¼	¾
India 5½ per Cent.	107¼	¾
Do. 4½ p. c. Rs.	70	⅝
Egyptian Guar.	101	2
Met. Bd. Wks. 3½	111⅛	12¾
Do. 3 p. c. Scrip	103½	4
Birmingham Crp. St	111	12
Liverpool	111½	12⅝
FOREIGN STOCKS.		
Argentine 6 p. c.	102	4
Do. Hard Dols.	67½	8½
Do. Treasury	94½	5½
Austrian Gold	92	4
Do. Silver	68	70
Brazilian 1875	101½	2½
B. Ayres 6 p. c.	101	3
Do. Cedulas I.	59¾	¾
Chilian 4½ p. c. 1886	101	3
Costa Rica A	90½	1½
Do. B	83½	9½
Egypt. State Dom.	101¼	¼
Do. Unified	83½	⅜
Do. Preference	102½	¾
Do. Daira Sanieh	80¾	⅝
French 5 p. c. Rnts.	81¼	2½
Do. 4½ p. c. Rnts.	105¾	¾
Greek 5 p. c. 1881	83	½
Hung. Gold Rentes	84⅛	⅝
Italian	94⅜	⅝
Mexican Converted	83½	¾
Peruvian 5 p. c. '72	14⅜	⅜
Do. 6 p. c.	15½	⅝
Portuguese	63⅜	⅛
Russian 1873	101⅛	¾
Spanish 4 p. c.	72⅛	⅜
Turkish 1854	99	101
Group 1	14⅞	16⅛
Group 2	15	¾
Group 4	84	½
4½ p. c. 1871	86	½
5 p. c. Defence	85	½
5 p. c. Priority	85	½
Uruguay Unified	67½	70¼
Virginia Funded	44⅝	45⅛
U.S. 4½ p. c.	110	12
BRITISH RAILWAYS.		
Caledonian	113⅜	⅝
Great Eastern	62¼	9
Great Northern	113	15
Ditto A	105	4
Great Western	152½	¾
Hull and Barnsley	32⅜	3½
Lanc. and York.	115	19
Brighton (Ordinary)	143	6
Brighton A	133¾	4
Chatham (Ordinary)	24¼	6
Do. Preference	106¾	6½
North Western	175	½
South Western	143¾	4½
Manchester & Shef.	68	70
Do. A	36¼	½
Met. Consolidated	74¾	5½
Do. Land Stock	69½	70½
Do. District	33¾	4¼
Midland	138⅝	⅜
North British Pref.	76¼	¾
Do. Def.	53½	9
North Eastern	163¼	4
North Stafford	114½	15½
South Eastern	133	5
Do. Deferred	103¼	⅜
FOREIGN RAILWAYS.		
Canada Pacific	55⅜	⅜
Can. Pacific Share	37	½
Chic. Mil. and St. Pl.	67	¼
Denver & R. Grande	17¾	½
Do. Pref.	45½	6
Illinois Shares	118⅛	19½
Lake Shore	103⅛	⅜
Ohio & Mississippi	22½	3
Louis. and Nash.	59¼	½
Mex. Cen. Bonds	71	½
Miss. Kan. & Texas	14	⅜
N. Y. Cen. Shares	112¼	¼
New York Ontario	15½	¼
Erie Shares	29⅛	¼
Do. Sec. Mort.	104	¼
Norfolk & West. Pref	53	¼
N.Y.P. & O. 1st M.	35¾	¼
North Pacific Pref.	62	½
Pennsylvania Sh.	56½	6
Phil. & Read. Sh.	25¾	⅛
Union Pacific Shares	66⅜	⅜
Wabash Preference	25	⅜
Do. Gen. Mort.	41	2
Grand Trunk Ord.	10½	¼
Do. First Pref.	37½	¾
Do. Second Pref.	47½	8¼
Do. Third Pref.	23½	7½
Do. Guaranteed	72⅛	3½
Mexican Ordinary	41¼	½
Do. First Pref.	119	½
Ob. do. 2nd Pref.	69½	70
Lombardo-Venetian	9	¼
Varna 5 per cent.	8	¼
Nitrate Railway	23⅛	⅝
BANKS.		
Alliance Bank	14	½
City Bank	234½	1½
Consolidated Bank	8	⅛
Imperial Ottoman	11¾	¼
London and County	38	00
Union of London	40½	1½
London and West.	69	70
London Joint Stock	40	1
Nat. Prov. of Eng.	43	4
Stand. Bnk. S. Africa	51½	2½
MINES.		
Indian Consolidated	¾	⅜
Mysore shares	3⅞	4¼
Oceanic	1 9/16	11/16
Cape Copper	5½	⅜
Namaqua	3½	⅜
Mason and Barry	9⅝	⅜
Rio Tinto	24½	⅜
Montana £1 shares	2 1/16	3/16
DeBeers new shares	17⅝	⅜
S. African Explor.	17	¾
TELEGRAPHS & TELEPHONES		
Anglo-American	48⅜	9¾
Do. Pref.	81½	2½
Brazilian Submarine	13¼	⅜
Direct Unit. States	9⅞	10⅛
Eastern	12⅜	⅝
Ditto Extension	12¼	13
United Telephone	14⅜	⅝
Globe Teleg. Trust	6⅞	7½
TRAMWAYS, ETC.		
London Gen. Om.	190	205
London Street	13	14
London Tramways	14½	15½
North Metropolitan	17½	18½
WATERWORKS.		
Chelsea Waterworks	257	62
East London	201	4
Grand Junction	121	5
Kent	277	82
Lambeth	252	7
New River, New	350	60
Sthwrk & Vauxhall	167	72
W. Middlesex	262	7
GAS & ELECTRIC LIGHT		
Gaslight & Coke A	259	61
Imp. Continental	209	14
South Metropolitan	322	7
Brush Electric (4pd)	3¼	4¼
MISCELLANEOUS.		
Allsopp	8	¼
Guinness and Co.	310	15
Hotchkiss	11¾	⅜
Bryant and May	12⅜	13¼
Spratt's Patent	10¼	¼
Liverpool Nitrate	28	9
Primitiva Nitrate	36¼	7¾
Salt Union Shares	3⅜	⅛pm
P. and O. Steam	65	7
Royal Mail Steam	64	6
Nat. Discount Co.	11½	12
Hudson's Bay	18¼	19¼
Suez Canal	87½	8
P. & O. Wh. Ind. Dock	19	21
London and St. K.	41	3

The following are quotations of securities receiving attention at present, and not given in our list above:—

Bulgarian Six per Cents.	87¼	8
Bell's Asbestos	15⅛	19½
Tarapaca Bank	4¾	5¼pm
Tarapaca Water	15	16
Oceana Land	17	18
Jumper's Gold	14	⅛
Delagoa Bay shares	15	17
Spes Bona	5¼	¾
Wernners	14¼	15¼
Langlaagtes	6¼	7
Jubilee	9½	10
Robinson	63	2
San Jorge	9¼	10¼pm
Tahana Cerro	4¾	5pm

TO-DAY'S TITTLE TATTLE.

A friend of mine, who recently spent three hours with Zebehr Pasha on board his dahabeeah, on the Nile, tells me that the old "Tiger of the Soudan" has named his little daughter, who was born while he was in captivity at Gibraltar, "Victoria," in honour of her Majesty. Miss Victoria Zebehr may some day be Empress of the Soudan

***

Mr. Stuart Cumberland—who appears to have no great faith in the divining-rod folk—is, I hear, anxious to put the so-called "diviners" to a test. He proposes that a piece of metal—gold, silver, or iron—shall be hid by a committee of representative gentlemen, which he by his process of thought-reading and the "adepts" with their rods shall, starting at the same time, endeavour to find.

***

Mr. Cumberland is, I believe, willing to back himself for £100; and, in case he won the "race," would be perfectly ready to hand the money over to a London charity. It would be interesting to know what the "diviners" and their friends have to say to this.

***

At an Oxford Local Examination in Northamptonshire a short time since the following question was asked and answer given:—"Who wrote the 'Compleat Angler'?" "Izaak Walton; and therefore he was called the Judicious Hooker." This is fact, not fiction.

***

Walking up Regent-street, my eye caught the fanciful costumes of three pretty Japanese children stepping out of a carriage just opposite to Mr. Van de Weyde's establishment. "Fe-fo-fum," I smelt copy, and advanced to see who the foreign celebrities were, when who should I see in charge but Mr. Menpes! Oh! what a surprise! These were his little ones, who are to entertain a large party of children at Osborne Lodge on Thursday. I cannot imagine a prettier costume for a child's fancy dress ball. Wigs, hair decorations, fans, lemon-yellow and apple-green drapery—they all look so summery and tropical in this dear, dreadful London weather. But more anon.

***

I heard a rumour yesterday that Mr. Ruskin is to be one of the sponsors to one of Mrs. Stannard's little babies, a few months old. I wonder if it will be called "Bootle"? Scarcely *Ruskinian*!

***

Mr. Jameson is dead, Major Barttelot is dead, Mr. Rose Troup is married, Mr. Herbert Ward will soon be on his way home, but what has become of Mr. Nelson, a gentleman who accompanied Mr. Stanley on the Emin expedition? His name has never cropped up in the papers yet. He is a sportsman of course, and went *en amateur*.

***

Par dit, quite the biggest ball that the world of trade has ever known is about to come off at Birmingham: and wherefore the function? 'Tis the mighty host of drapers in the Midland capital who are bestirring themselves to raise the wind, to find "the one thing needful" for that perhaps not famous yet withal deserving institution the Warehousemen's, Clerks,' and Drapers' Schools, founded as far back as 1853, when the late Earl Russell was president, at Purley, in Surrey. The present patron is the Prince of Wales, and the present president the Marquis of Hartington.

***

"The myrmidons of that Indian butcher, Mr. Monro"—that is the latest euphemism for the metropolitan police. It is Mr. Williams's patent, and it is at least up to date. I fear if Mr. Williams takes to doing what he plentifully threatens the "myrmidons" in question will give him a very uncomfortable quarter of an hour. Tall talk of firearms and bludgeons is not exactly the way in which to enlist the sympathy of the public on behalf of the unemployed, while it may fatally compromise all those with whom you act if any one of them should act upon your advice.

***

Mr. Herbert Booth, the youngest son of General Booth, is welcomed to-night at a mass meeting in Clapton on his return from a tour round the world. At the Antipodes Mr. Herbert Booth was received everywhere as if he had been a Bishop, and his tour on the whole has been a great success. After the Roman Church, there are few such cosmopolitan bodies as the Salvation Army. Miss Booth commands in France. Her sister, who is married, is in India. Ballington Booth is at the head of the Army in America, Herbert has just returned from New Zealand, and General Booth spent Christmas week in a tour through Scandinavia.

***

Mrs. Cottell writes to say that she is utterly surprised to hear that a letter in the *Pall Mall Gazette* has spoken of Carlyle House as having been "taken by some party interested in Spiritualism." She begs me to say that she is sole proprietor of the residence, having bought the lease, and that Mrs. Jencken and her children lived with her simply as visitors.

***

Every one is talking about Banquo's ghost. May I repeat a story I heard in a green room last night? Here goes for "French leave." A certain company was about to play "Macbeth" in a little Irish town, but the parish priest, whose patronage had been solicited, would not stand the ghost at any price. Some spirits were not to be sneezed at, but a ghost would upset all his teaching, and play the deuce with his influence in the parish. The manager was at his wit's end. He had a happy thought. He assured the priest that there was nothing wrong in the ghost, and asked him to come and see it. When the banqueting scene was being set he was taken behind and placed on the trap through which Banquo's spirit is wont to appear, and so engrossed was he in the interesting and novel proceedings that the wicked manager was able to show the priest to the whole house, thus frustrating his little game. Ghosts are not to be boycotted.

A LONDON ARTIST'S LOVE STORY.

The London correspondent of the *Dublin Mail* writes:—Another slave of the brush has distinguished himself in a very romantic manner. Some six or eight months ago a French girl of remarkable beauty arrived in London, and set up for the livelihood of an artist's model. The gentleman whose exploits are now being freely talked about, engaged her to appear in costume as several of Shakspeare's heroines, and almost immediately fell passionately in love with the fair daughter of *la belle France*. The young lady reciprocated his passion, but the artist was a gentleman extremely popular in certain well-to-do circles, and the consequences of making what he knew would be an ill-advised match impressed him to such an extent that a few weeks ago he bade his "model" to leave him and never see him again. The girl, who allies to beauty a very fervid temperament, resented the slight in passionate terms, and the result was a violent quarrel, after which mademoiselle quitted the studio, apparently never to return. The artist, however, became filled with remorse, wrote praying forgiveness, and the other day led his dark-eyed beauty to the altar, and is now spending the honeymoon in the south of France. In view of the fact that the gentleman was a great favourite with many men and young ladies whose parents had very substantial banking accounts, there is much curiosity to see the new bride, who may expect to be fairly criticised when she returns to town.

A MONGOLIAN BISHOP'S STRANGE CAREER.

Information has been received in Brussels of the death of Mgr. de Vos, titular Bishop of Abdera, and vicar apostolic of South Eastern Mongolia, at San-tao-ho, in the country of the Ordos, a barren region in Mongolia, lying in a huge bend of the Yellow River before it enters China Proper. The deceased prelate belonged to the Belgian congregation of Scheut-lèz-Bruxelles, to which Mongolia and parts of north China, as well as the Congo, have been confided. He was about fifty years of age, and had laboured in Mongolia since 1868. He was the first missionary to penetrate the then unknown region of the Ordos. On one occasion he was almost killed by a mob, but ultimately he succeeded in gaining the confidence of the King or chief of the Eleuths. For many years he lived the ordinary roving life of the Mongol herdsmen, and established along the banks of the Yellow River a number of agricultural colonies of Mongol converts. In 1883, when the Propaganda divided Mongolia into three vicariats, he was appointed to the one in which he had laboured, and in 1884 he was elevated to the titular bishopric of Abdera.

CADBURY'S COCOA is a refined concentration of the strength-sustaining principles of the flesh-forming constituents of the Cocoa-nib. Delicious, nutritious, easily digested, and of great economy. A sixpenny packet yielding fourteen large breakfast cups of perfect Cocoa. It is absolutely pure.

THE KING OF THE WIRE WALKERS.

THE LATEST SENSATION: CAICEDO.

"There are Nitrate Kings like Colonel North, and Iron Kings like Mr. Carnegie, and Mosquito Kings like Mr. Monkhouse, and Wire Kings like the agile little South American who is drawing, wire-drawing, 'the town.'" "What is Caicedo?"—"A really wonderful wire-jumper."—"Who is Caicedo?"—"A Columbian born, who has been on the wires for twelve years."—"Where is Caicedo?"—"Just arrived at the Empire." I had heard so much about this remarkable man that I ventured into his dressing-room last night, and had a chat with him while he was arraying himself in a pretty blue and gold costume, which Madame Caicedo has made for him. "I have a fresh one every night and they keep my wife very busy," said the King, who was engaged with the gold laces which fastened his elegant blue boots. "Is she not nervous when you are away?"—"We have been married eight years, and hitherto I have arrived at home with my neck whole, you see."

HIS WORST ACCIDENT.

"The worst accident I ever had was at Vienna not long ago, when I slipped and tumbled on my head. Three doctors came: 'Two hours Caicedo will live. No more. We have said it.' In a week I spoke. Then they said, 'Yes, he speaks, but he will be crazy.' I am still alive, you see, and as sensible as ever. 'Then is your performance dangerous?' 'Yes; it is difficult to save myself if I slip, but that is seldom.' At this moment a giant, with fearful muscles and a fifty-inch chest, walked into the bleak little dressing-room, which was strewn with towels, and bags, and boots, and coats, and the spangled garments of the variety artist. The giant was Busiros, the Big, the strong man, who has travelled all over the world on his Herculean proportion. "Caicedo is a terror on the wire. I—I, well, I can carry a thousand pounds of flesh—seven men—without staggering, and in old days I used to fire a cannon of 900 lb. off my shoulder." I respected Busiros very greatly after that, and understood that he was a man with whom it would not be safe to take liberties. Mr. Clarke, the cat man, joined us as we were waiting for Caicedo's call, and the conversation turned on cats, of which Mr. Clarke has thirty, and he told me that one of his pussies had just presented him with a lively litter of likely kittens. At one side the men were lashing a stout ashen mast to the stage, and looking through the hole below a glorious ham and a bar were disclosed to my speculating eyes.

THE WIRE-WALKING AND THE SUMMERSAULTS.

Across two brass crossbars was stretched a half-inch woven wire, twelve feet above the stage, the whole apparatus being lashed by blocks to the ashen bars, and in a few seconds Caicedo was prancing about on wire. He had his balancing pole in his hands, and pranced along backwards and forwards, now up to the sky borders, then down again; now turning summersaults, first back, then front, with the most marvellous precision, coming to a dead halt when he had got his balance. Then he came down and put on riding boots and Mexican spurs, mounting again, and walking rapidly to one end of the wire, turned four or five clean summersaults backwards. It is a marvellous performance, for which the lucky and plucky little dark-eyed Mexican gets £45 a week, so I was told, though not by Caicedo. When he came off he was panting and perspiring. "Don't you get much cut by the wire?" I asked him, as we got back to the dressing-room. "Yes; it hurts me very much, but my muscles are hard as iron, and I am inured to it."

NO SMOKER, NO DRINK.

"Do you smoke or drink?"—"Neither. The only stimulant I take is coffee."—"What made you go in for the wire-walking?"—"Well, the trapeze business is so common, and I took a line (a wire line) for myself."—"And how do you amuse yourself?"—"I play with the babies."—Thus do Kings take their pastime.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION SCHEME.

Mr. John Aird's project for holding a great International Exhibition at the Crystal Palace in 1891, on the lines of the original Exhibition, is beginning to bear fruit. Mr. Aird has received a great number of letters containing propositions and plans, and having other reference to his project, to all of which he has made replies of a temporizing nature. He has of course formed a plan in his own mind, but with characteristic modesty he prefers at present to say nothing about it until he has conferred with other gentlemen, and obtained their views on the question. He hopes also to interest the Press in his scheme, and to be able to feel assured of its assistance and sympathy.

IMPORTANT TO VOTERS FOR THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

A deputation waited upon Sir Thomas Chambers, the returning officer for the county of London, yesterday with reference to plural voting at the forthcoming election. Sir Thomas Chambers informed the deputation that there could be no doubt that no county elector had a right to vote in more than one division of London, and that he was issuing a notice to his deputies calling their attention to the 59th section of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, which provides for the putting of the question whether the person applying for a ballot paper had voted before in that or any other division. In addition to this a placard would be posted in the polling stations warning electors that they were not entitled to apply for a second voting paper or to vote more than once, under pain of being deemed guilty of personation, and liable to the severe penalties attached thereto.

HEAVIER LOCOMOTIVES FOR THE L. & N.W.

A number of new engines of great weight and power are being constructed in the locomotive works of the London and North Western Railway Company at Crewe, in view, it is stated, of a renewal of the race to Scotland in May. The engines are from a new design, with triple boilers, and are being built specially to stand the strain of great speed and increased drawing power. The high rate of speed obtained in the race last season severely tried the locomotives, and the engines now being constructed are about twenty tons heavier.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF WOMEN.

The President of the Women's Rights Association of France—Mdlle. Marie Deraismes—is enthusiastic as to the prospects of the approaching International Congress of Ladies which is to be held in Paris during the Exhibition. She says that she receives letters daily from the fair sex of all countries who want to take part in the congress. Strange to say, the majority of these epistolary missives come from Italy and England, America following next as a good third. Besides the agitation for the electoral and general legislative privileges of women, which will be the chief object of the congress, great attention will be paid to the hours of labour and wages question and the protection of children. Mdlle. Deraismes is, in the meantime, attracting numerous politicians to her cause, and among her most enthusiastic parliamentary supporters are M. Vacquerie, M. Anatole de la Forge, and M. Yves-Guyot.

THE NEW SEASON'S BOOTS AND SHOES.

The *Shoe and Leather Record* has a long review of the new season's samples in boots and shoes. "There is a marked revival both in the ladies and in the gentlemen's trade of hand-sewn boots. Welting machinery is making progress, and hand labour for welting is being trained besides, so that there seems every probability of the next few years witnessing a revival which, unlike many revivals, will be in the direction of improvement rather than retrogression—for the hand-made principle of boot making still holds the field against all comers.

"The next most prominent feature in the season's samples is the enlarged display of Russia leather goods of all kinds. Brown and ruby Russia alone and combined with patent calf make very handsome goods, and both ladies and gentlemen's walking boots and low shoes are thus cut in greater variety than ever. As to shapes of last, smart toes are still popular, and seem to divide favour with toes which go almost to the other extreme, these latter being the legacy left to the trade from the days when hygienic shapes were fashionable; though to be exact, it must be owned that the ugly old skew-shaped lasts of those days have had to be modified to a more reasonable standard of shape.

"In ladies' goods buttoned boots are as popular as ever, though legs are not so high nor are the buttons quite so numerous as in recent seasons. Generally speaking, both ladies and gentlemen's samples, especially of best qualities, are plain or with but little embellishment, while lightness is the order of the day all round. If the craze for light foot wear much longer continues, rubber overshoes may be expected to again become fashionable for wet weather. And a very good thing, too."

Mr. John Morley, M.P., has consented to take the chair at a lecture to be given in the Westminster Town Hall, on the evening of Friday, the 1st of February, at half-past eight, by Mr. Augustine Birrell, author of "Obiter Dicta." The subject of the lecture is "Edward Gibbon," and the profits will be paid to the funds of Mrs. Wates-Hughes's Home for Destitute Boys, Mountford House, Barnsbury-square, N. Tickets can be obtained at Mitchell's, 33, Old Bond-street, W.

Bord's Pianos. 25 per cent. discount for cash, or 15s. per month (Second-hand, 10s. 6d. per month) on the three years' system. Illustrated Lists free of CHAS. STILES and CO., 42, SOUTHAMPTON-ROW, HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C. Pianos exchanged.

THE VACUUM BRAKE APPLIED TO TRAMCARS.

The vacuum brake has been experimentally applied to the steam tramcars on the heavy gradients on the track worked by the Bradford and Shelf Tramway Company, which rises 300 ft. in less than two miles. The brake gave much satisfaction. Steaming up the heavy gradient of Manchester-road the engine was suddenly detached from the car, whereupon the latter immediately came to a standstill through the automatic action of the brake. This experiment was tried some half dozen times, and on each occasion with the same success.

WHO SHALL BE PATRON SAINT OF TYNESIDE?

Tynesiders are now considering a suggestion that on a fixed date in each year they shall meet at their respective local centres, all the world o'er, to drink to the health of their "noble selves," and laud the history of their famous river. But they are puzzled over the selection of the date, because it is necessary that the date selected should not only be associated with the name of a famous Tynesider, but should also occur in such a part of the year as is generally deemed appropriate for holding indoor festivals. In order to assist Tynesiders in various parts of the world to come to a proper decision in the matter, the *Newcastle Weekly Chronicle* has printed the birthdays of a few men who have made the Tyne famous all over the globe:—

St. Cuthbert, translated September 4.
Lord Armstrong, born in Newcastle on November 26, 1810.
Thomas Bewick, born at Cherryburn on August 12, 1753.
George Stephenson, born at Wylam on June 9, 1781.
Lord Collingwood, born in Newcastle on September 26, 1748.
Mark Akenside, born in Newcastle on November 9, 1721.
Luke Clennell, born near Morpeth on March 30, 1781.
J. W. Carmichael, born in Newcastle on January 9, 1800.
Lord Eldon, born in Newcastle on June 4, 1751.
Lord Stowell, born at Heworth, county Durham, on October 17, 1745.
Earl Grey, born at Falloden, near Alnwick, on March 13, 1764.

Mr. Jos. Lingwood, of Alnwick, asks why St. George's Day, April 23, should not be adopted. St. George, Mr. Lingwood remarks, is not only the patron saint of England, but the patron saint of Northumberland, the crest of the "Old and Bold," the Northumberland Fusiliers, being St. George and the Dragon.

THE TENDENCY OF THE FASHIONS IN PARIS.

"Dressmakers," writes the Paris correspondent of the *Draper's Record*, "are hard at work, and the air is full of rumours as to what is going to be worn this spring. Directoire and Empire styles reign for the present, and most often a mixture of both. But these are beginning to be replaced by the Greek and Princess costumes, though made up at present solely for evening wear. Should the style take, they will be adapted for walking costumes this spring. The low-crowned bonnets and hats are still in vogue; for this, theatre and concert-goers will send up a heartfelt thanksgiving. There is, however, in some of the new hats a tendency to gain in breadth what they lost in height. There are several on what might be termed the mushroom model. The new toques are certainly more pleasing; the Henri II., made in orange-coloured velvet, edged with a twist of black velvet, is pretty—a flexible jet arrow is placed round the crown, with a black bird and black feathers in front. The Grecque toque, in emerald-green velvet, arranged fan-shape on one side, and on the other a grey bird called *minutas*, is the most stylish of all; the edge is trimmed round with a gold Grecque pattern. The Roland hat, in felt, with squarish up-turned brim, is still worn; also the Romeo, with turned-down brim with bows of ribbon underneath, resting on the hair—this hat has long ostrich feathers that droop behind quite over the hair. There is evidently a tendency to return to the Princess bonnet, as there is the desire to return to this mode of dress.

WHITTIER BURNS HIS LETTERS.

It having been reported that the poet Whittier had recently caused all his letters and correspondence to be burned, in order to prevent posthumous publication, he has written the following communication to a friend, who publishes the letter:—

"Oak Knoll, Danvers.

"Dear friend,—The report concerning the burning of my letters is only true as far as this. Some years ago I destroyed a large collection of letters I had received, not from any regard to my own reputation, but from the fear that to leave them liable to publicity might be injurious or unpleasant to the writers or their friends. They covered much of the anti-slavery period and the war of the rebellion, and many of them I knew were strictly private and confidential. I was not able at the time to look over the MS., and thought it safest to make a bonfire of it all. I have always regarded a private and confidential letter as sacred and its publicity in any shape a shameful breach of trust, unless authorized by the writer. I only wish my own letters to thousands of correspondents may be as carefully disposed of. You may use this letter as you think wise and best. Very truly thy friend, JOHN G. WHITTIER."

NO TENNYSONIAN MEMOIRS.

It seems settled (says a writer in the *Times* of Philadelphia) that the poet Tennyson cannot be induced to write a volume of his memoirs. One American publisher has authorized his London representative to offer Lord Tennyson £1,000 for the American rights of such a book. Another has offered £400 each for five chapters of such a book for magazine publication. Both offers have been declined. It is thus pardonable to infer that a volume of Tennyson's memoirs will never see the light, for certainly more generous terms could not be offered to induce any man to put pen to paper. In the meantime Mr. Wilkie Collins, not so unsusceptible to financial promises, is plodding along on his memoirs, which promises to be a volume rich in interest

King Milan is said to be very anxious about a collection of his letters which Queen Natalie has taken with her into exile.

There has been a slight improvement in Mr. Ruskin's condition since the last bulletin was issued.

Lord Randolph Churchill left town yesterday on a week's visit to Newmarket. His lordship will leave England next week for a tour on the Continent.

The Bishop of London has appointed Thursday and Friday, March 7 and 8, for this year's Session of his Diocesan Conference.

Roman Catholic archbishops in America have received orders from Rome to gather statistics concerning marriages of Catholics with persons of other faiths.

Several leading Tokyo and Yokohama merchants have under consideration project having for its aim the building of a dock at Yokohama.

Bakers in Chicago are now required by law to stamp the weight and their names on every loaf of bread.

Viscount Wolseley will preside at a lecture to be delivered by Captain Francis G. Stone, R.A., on "Quick-firing Guns for Fortress Defence," at the Royal United Service Institution, on the 18th inst.

While hunting with the Quorn hounds yesterday, Mr. Chaplin, of Wyndham Lodge, Melton, was thrown from his horse and sustained somewhat serious internal injuries.

It is said that nearly all the fashionable milliners and dressmakers in New York keep a stock of choice wines on hand "to relieve the fatigue of their customers."

It is estimated that £20,000 were sent as Christmas gifts to Ireland from Boston—nearly all of it from the servant girls of that city and vicinity. One house alone drew drafts for £12,000.

A shirt has been patented by Mr. Thomas J. Holmes, Sioux City, Ia., wherein the body is made of one material, as of woollen, while the collar, band, bosom, and cuffs are of another material, as of linen and cotton.

The statistics of the Newcastle Free Library show a great decline in the circulation of novels, and a corresponding increase in the circulation of works of a higher standard of value.

The steamer *City of New York*, which arrived at San Francisco on December 14 from Hong Kong and Yokohama was the first steamer that has come from the Orient for a number of years without a single Chinaman on board for that port.

The death is announced at an advanced age of Mr. Blomfield Burnell, one of the oldest members of the Corporation of the City of London, and deputy alderman of the ward of Aldgate. Mr. Burnell entered the Common Council in 1852, and was re-elected for thirty-six successive years.

Otto Plock, a New York banker, attempted to rid his deer park in the Neversink valley of rattlesnakes recently by introducing wild hogs from Germany, but the animals, not content with fighting reptiles, have swarmed into neighbouring forests and are getting dangerous. They hide in the daytime and maraud at night. No dog dare tackle them.

SIR MORELL MACKENZIE writes about the Soden Mineral Pastilles:—"I regard them as extremely valuable in obstinate Catarrhal Affections of the Throat. They are especially beneficial to Catarrhal Diseases of the Air Passages. I frequently found them of great service in the cases of singers and public speakers." Acknowledged by the Medical Profession the best remedy for Throat Irritation, Coughs, Bronchitis, and Asthma. Of all Chemists, 1s. 1½d., or 15 stamps, from 10, Dyer's-buildings, Holborn, E.C.

"FOR THE BLOOD IS THE LIFE."—Clarke's world-famed Blood Mixture is warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities, from whatever cause arising. For Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, skin and blood diseases, and sores of all kinds, its effects are marvellous. Thousands of testimonials. In bottles, 2s. 9d. and 11s. each, of all Chemists. Proprietors, Lincoln and Midland Counties Drug Company, Lincoln. Ask for Clarke's Blood Mixture, and do not be persuaded to take an imitation.

THE SHOWS IN THE LONDON SHOPS.

What about stockings for evening wear? I saw an Italian lady buy a dozen pairs of bright coloured silk stockings at Peter Robinson's for about £6. "Only Americans and Italians," said the salesman, "wear bright coloured stockings now." The last Mrs. Langtry bought at Peter Robinson's cost 9*s.* a pair. They were very plain. She gives more liberal prices as a rule. Stockings are sold to match the shoes, and tan and bronze are heavily drawn upon. In these two shades silk stockings cost 17*s.* 6*d.* I was shown some odd stockings to be worn with a short fancy dress. The foot was of black silk and the rest from the ankle upwards was made in brilliant stripes. The porcupine stocking is curious. It looks like honeycomb. Black silk stockings with rich black jet front trimming cost a guinea. The highest-priced stockings (43*s.* a pair) have a broad insertion of Brussels lace.

* * * * *

Debenham and Freebody made over a hundred dresses for the guests at Colonel North's ball. Some very interesting things were forthcoming about the clearance sale. I got into conversation with one of the junior partners, and asked, "How many dresses have you cleared out since Monday?" "Two hundred and thirty of ordinary evening dresses, a hundred and seventy from the model room, where the rich gowns are kept, and ninety-eight mourning gowns. Price is everything in bargains. If £12 is asked for a dress that would cost £35 two months ago it will be snapped up at once, no matter how ugly in style or atrocious in colour. Our sale lasts till January 18. What is left then will be sent to the colonies or to the south-east and south-west suburbs."

* * * * *

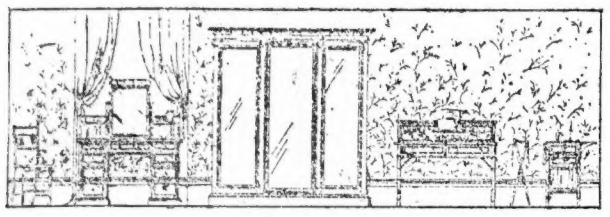
Have you seen the new silk coverlets? They are made from the odds and ends of silks that once went into the paper-maker's stock-pot, and are not at all gaudy. These coverlets cost from 5*s.* to a guinea.

* * * * *

"I suppose you often have to build an easy chair for a fat man?" I inquired of the affable manager at Howard's, whose acres of furniture occupy 25-27, Berners-street. But he announced that he had acquired the knack of knowing at first sight what a lady or gentleman wanted. He "sized them up" at the first glance. "There are enthusiasts in chairs," he remarked, "and some gentlemen are always having fresh degrees of comfort made from their own plans.

* * * * *

Leather wall "papers" are favourite things for dining, billiard, and smoking rooms. This wall covering improves by wear. The best leather paper is very scarce. It comes from off old palace and mansion walls, and small strips fetch high prices. Howard's manager told me he gave as much as fifty shillings for a strip of two yards. I saw several of those clean-looking, ivory-white bedroom

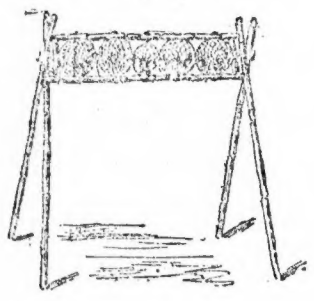


IN THE PRINCE OF WALES'S BEDROOM.

suites. You can get a good suite for £19. Here is some of the bedroom furniture made for the Prince of Wales. It is of ash, with bamboo mouldings. The whole suite costs £50. House furnishing is done quickly when necessary. Mr. James Lowther has just had his house refurnished. The principal rooms were oak panelled, eight or ten feet high, and the floors were all oak. The whole affair took two months.

* * * * *

People will never tire of lawn tennis. The new game of tennisette, sold by Lunn and Co., 41, Berners-street, is the invention of Lieutenant-Colonel Fitzmaurice. The player stands a short distance off, and throws the ball on the carpet, endeavouring to make it rebound through the rings of the frame. Each player has five throws. Another indoor game born of the passion for tennis is lawn fives. There is a



net behind a screen, and the game is to get as many balls as possible through five holes in the screen with a lawn-tennis racket. Rev. R. Frith invented this. The usual number of children's games are found at Lunn's. Implements for every game, football, tennis, cricket, are stocked in their shop in hundreds. That Oxford student who invented "ringoal" must have found it pay much better than going in for double firsts. Ringoal is becoming very popular both for indoor and out. Lunn's say they are never short of games. They are shortly going to patent an invention of outdoor billiards. Most inventors have a royalty on the games they devise.

* * * * *

The last parlour game invented has the familiar but sinister subject of Jack the Ripper for its central figure. The mysterious object of the policeman's vigilance and the newspaper man's imagination has to escape through a series of squares, past twelve constables and twelve reporters. Should he arrive at a specified place without getting a policeman one side of him and a reporter the other, he is not "taken." This game will hardly commend itself to heads of families. It is, in fact, one of those grim jokes of the gutter by which the merchant of the pavement earns an honest penny.

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE GREAT PAULUS.

A LARGE FORTUNE IN COMIC SONGS.

A representative of *Galignani* has had an interview with the famous Paulus, from which we take the following:—

"Of course every one who patronises my music-hall expects to hear the now world-famous Boulanger song rendered by its creator. The origin of this strain is curious. About two years ago I was getting quite used up for a subject to work upon. My *répertoire* of favourite pieces was well-nigh exhausted. Just at that time I was invited—in company with Garnier, the singer and rhymer of the Alcazar music-hall—by Desormes, the leader of the orchestra at the Folies-Bergère, to hear a new piece. The very first notes of the music suggested to my imagination the Parisians flocking in troops to the Longchamp review, and the crowd returning boisterous, excited, and merry, when the day was over. I imparted my idea to Garnier, and asked him to set to work on it with Delormel, who is expected to turn out 365 songs in the course of a twelvemonth. Two days after my piece, 'En Revenant de la Revue,' was finished and handed in."

BOULANGER TO PAULUS.

On March 12 following, I was invited to a soirée by M. Granet, then Post-master-General, where I had the honour of singing my piece before General Boulanger. The latter, shaking me by the hand, said: "If I am still Minister on July 14 we will hear it over again." This is at present a pleasure deferred for both parties. As intellectual author and creator of the piece, I claim fifty per cent. of the publisher's profits. Fully 250,000 copies of the song have been sold, and every month I have been receiving 3,000 f. as well as my salary at the Scala and share of profits. This, together with what my evenings at soirées, &c., bring me in, makes my income amount to more than 100,000 f. With my savings I have been able to buy my villa at Neuilly, and lay out besides 250,000 f. in vineyards and ground near Bordeaux, where I was born.

THE MONEY IN IT.

I have no weakness for fame, except from a remunerative point of view. The more I can earn by my talent, the more I appreciate it. I have worked right hard to win the public ear. In 1868 I was happy when I could make 300 f. a month by my singing. Now, there are days when I earn my 1,000 f. For the last ten years I have been gradually improving my position, and don't intend to lapse into lazy habits because I have grown unexpectedly rich.

A MODEL MUSIC-HALL.

Now, what I want to get up in Paris is a music-hall uniting whatever of good is to be met with in some of these establishments, and to eschew the objectionable that appertains to all of them. I would initiate a model place of its class. The best comic singers of the day, both male and female, would be pressed into service. Patriotic songs, in the manner of "Father Victory," would alternate with old French ditties, and the more comic répertoire of current or original pieces. Nothing ribald or prurient would be produced. Not that I hope ever to inculcate virtue with my songs or the songs of others. I can, however, minister to innocent rather than vicious propensities. My object is to elevate, if possible, the low level of the present music-hall stage.

PARIS GROWING BETTER!

Paris has undergone a change since the days of the Empire. Mabille and Valentino have closed their doors, never, perhaps, to reopen them. Homely mirth and honest sentiment in modern Republican Paris would attract more decent people to a music-hall like the one I contemplate opening than I should be able to accommodate. The fashionable lady of society would be only too glad to avail herself of such an evening resort, if she felt assured that, on taking seats for herself and children, her next neighbour would be a respectable person.

THE VALUE OF SONGS.

A song which hits the public taste is a remarkably good property. That is why I edit my own pieces. I have occasionally sold 100 dollars' worth of songs in a single day. The average sale at my publishing store in the Rue d'Enghein is 300 f. per diem. The profits on a song will sometimes amount to as much as 25,000 f. When it is considered that the piece in question amounts to no more than a few lines of a musical score, and two or three verses, it must be admitted that the profits made by the successful novelist, or by the dramatist whose piece is the rage, sink into insignificance beside those of the man who owns the copyright of a 'good' song. Scores of comic songs and sentimental ballads are produced every year which never have life enough to reach the organ-grinder and the errand boy. Even at the best the harvest of a popular song is quickly garnered. The life of such a work of art is a short one. For a few months it resounds everywhere. Enthusiastic crowds chorus it nightly as it is sung from half a hundred platforms. It penetrates to the street, and its monotonous lilt strikes the ear every few yards. It is brought into the plays, especially those called "reviews" at the end of the year, and its verses are parodied in the comic papers. But before another season a fresh tune has caught the public ear, and is in possession of the public voice. The discarded favourite is relegated to remote provincial stages, whence possibly it may return again, in meteor fashion, to delight our descendants a century from now.

A POWER IN THE STATE.

The *café-concert*, or French music-hall, is a power in the State. After a great orator, like Gambetta, there is nothing that I know of equal to a comic singer. They can make or mar a reputation; and in wielding this power for good or evil, perhaps, the singer should be accounted the more dangerous of the two. Oratory vanishes. The bows of eloquence are buried with the archers. The song remains.

"THAT DR. CUPID" AT THE VAUDEVILLE.

DETERMINED once more to outwit the first night "wreckers," whom he holds in perhaps exaggerated horror, Mr. Thorne produced Mr. Buchanan's new comedy, "That Dr. Cupid," at the Vaudeville yesterday afternoon, before an audience consisting mainly, in the reserved parts, of critics and actors, among whom were Mr. Toole, Miss Harriet Jay, Mr. Arthur Dacre, Mr. Arthur Stirling, Mr. John Coleman, Miss Norreys, Mr. Yorke Stephens, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Jones, and others. Mr. Buchanan acknowledges a slight indebtedness to Foote's farce "The Devil upon Two Sticks," from which he has borrowed an incident in the first act; otherwise his play is entirely original. This incident, however, is the starting-point of the play, which is fantastic in style and supernatural in machinery. Heine as well as Foote seems to have been laid under contribution. The magic bottle belongs to the English Aristophanes, but for its contents Mr. Buchanan has surely gone to the "Gods in Exile" of the German Lucian. There is also a strong suggestion of Mr. Gilbert in the love-at-cross-purposes which forms the matter of the second act; but Mr. Buchanan's humour is quite innocent of the peculiar Gilbertian twist. Harry Racket, a Cambridge undergraduate of eighty years ago, whose name conveniently indicates his habits, has had foisted upon him by an old usurer a collection of worthless "curios." Among them is a glass jar, labelled "Amor vincit omnia sed scientia captat amorem," and containing, apparently, an india-rubber doll, and in a fit of despair at the contrariety of the world in general Master Harry seizes the jar and flings it into the fire. Instantly the stage is darkened, and a quaint figure is dimly seen crouching in the fireplace. This is none other than Cupid, now an aged and somewhat rheumatic deity, who has been "bottled" since the reign of Elizabeth, and now, in gratitude to his deliverer, devotes himself to his service. At the end of the first act, the pair take flight to Bath, after the manner of Faust and Mephistopheles in the recent Lyceum spectacle. In the second act, Dr. Cupid, passing as Harry Racket's tutor, sets the world of Bath by the ears and no whit advances his pupil's cause. He speeds the shafts of desire so much at random (his cocked hat symbolizing his bow) that every one falls in love with the wrong person, the hero and heroine quarrel desperately, and society is reduced to an amatory chaos. The only sentiment in which all are agreed is a longing for vengeance on the sportive old blunderer who has wrought all the mischief. In the third act, fortunately, a little diplomacy and a few well-directed darts put matters straight again, and the "sweet bells" of matrimony are no longer "jangled out of tune and harsh." It cannot be said that Mr. Buchanan has altogether avoided the pitfalls of vulgarity which obviously beset such a theme, but he has produced an adroit, lively, and sufficiently novel play, exactly suited to his actors and his audience. It was received with acclamation by the afternoon public, and there is no reason why it should not prove equally attractive "at night." Mr. Thorne's Dr. Cupid is a quaint and genial performance; Mr. Frank Gillmore plays Harry Racket with plenty of youthful spirit; Miss Winifred Emery as the heroine gives us no cause to regret too poignantly the absence of Miss Kate Rorke from the cast; Mr. Cyril Maude scores a great success as a stammering lover; Miss F. Robertson and Miss Dolores Drummond are sufficiently amusing as two amorous ladies of a certain age; and Mr. F. Thorne is excellent as a testy and hypochondriac country squire. The dresses, designed by Mr. Karl, are extremely quaint and effective, and it must be added that the performers wear the high-collared Tom and Jerry coats and *Directoire* skirts of our grandfathers and grandmothers with remarkable ease.

VICTOR HUGO AND AMATEUR POETS.

Victor Hugo, like many other great poets, had to pay the penalty of greatness by writing letters to admiring or ambitious correspondents who dedicated poems to him, or sent him their own poems with a request for his opinion of them. The answers of some eminent authors to this reverential class of beggars have been often curt enough and not always polite. But Victor Hugo had quite a passion for saying something beautiful and melodious to all the world. To the dedicator of an ode he is reported to have written, "My master, you pass before me like a comet, and illuminate my path!" An American poet, who dedicated a romance to the great Frenchman, was rewarded with the following acknowledgment: "You possess a sublime inspiration; the tender streams of your harmonious speech impart to my feelings a sense of recovered youth; I press your hands across the ocean." On one occasion a drawing was sent to him. He replied by writing to the artist: "Each of your lines is a verse; you could say 'Thou' to God!" A poor stonemason in Roubaix, who had an enthusiastic admiration for Victor Hugo as poet and as politician, amused himself during his leisure hours in attempting to compose verses. He ventured to send some of them to the poet. "I can trace your image," replied Victor Hugo, "in your poetry. Each of these thoughts must have proceeded from a head encircled with blond locks. O, my child, for many a year may you preserve untinged with grey those locks which the shears of age have not yet touched!" The poetic mason, says the narrator, was fifty-five years old.

IN THE BUSINESS WORLD.

THE PRICE OF COPPER AND THE TELEGRAPHS.

The high price of copper has restrained the Telegraph Department from making any extensions during the year, except such as have been absolutely necessary. Of course it is generally known that copper is now the favourite metal for long circuits, having much greater conductivity than galvanized iron. The *Electrician* remarks that a perhaps not wholly regretable consequence of this check to the multiplication of wires has been the perfecting and extending the use of multiplex telegraph apparatus so as to force the constantly-increasing traffic through the existing system of conductors. The gross revenue of the telegraph service increased last year by £125,000 over 1887, the total being £2,040,000.

COMBINATIONS IN THE CHEMICAL TRADE.

The existence of combinations to regulate industries are in some cases so notorious that the whole world is aware of the fact, but in other instances the operations are done so quietly that few outside those in the special trade are aware of it. We notice in M'Culloch's annual report on chemicals and manure materials that the supply of caustic soda having exceeded the demand and the price having fallen to £6 10*s.*, the makers combined to regulate the production, which is now under the control of an executive committee. The price advanced rapidly to £7 15*s.*, but gradually fell back to £6 17*s.* 6*d.*, closing at £7 with an upward tendency. Bleaching powder has remained steady under the influence of 'combination' rules, which have been renewed for another year. Clorate of potash fell to 5*d.* in September, when a recovery took place to 6*d.*, again followed by a decline to 5½d., owing to a dissension among the makers as to the conclusion of a convention for reducing the output. Negotiations have since been renewed, and it is expected that the proposed curtailment of make will now be carried out. On the general question of these combinations the same authority says: "These bold and ingenious aids to higher prices may be denounced as immoral, if not illegal, but desperate diseases require desperate remedies. After the fever and inflation of 1872-74, came over-production and long years of depression, which left the body commercial so weak and exhausted that strong measures were necessary, even if irregular. Such exceptional organizations are by no means new. They have been adopted before, under analogous conditions of trade and manufacture. History repeats itself, and we shall probably see the dissolution of 'rings' and 'combinations' as in former times, when either the need for them has ceased, or they have been swept away by the force of public opinion or of competition too powerful to be resisted. In the mean time they have assisted towards a recovery."

IS THE WINE TRADE SO DISHONEST?

A correspondent signing himself "Finis" brings a wholesale charge of immorality against the wine trade, and declares that "there is no trade in which the credulity of the British public is so imposed upon as in the sale and purchase of wine." As an illustration he quotes the following cases:—

On an occasion, word was sent down to a firm of wine merchants in the City, who were in the habit of supplying the requirements of a large, well-known hotel, whether they would exchange a hundred dozen claret (St. Julien), as the clientèle did not quite fancy the wine. In reply, the hotel manager was requested to have the wine carted down the following day, when the claret would be willingly exchanged for an equal quantity. At the wine merchants' cellars, on the following morning, consequently, everything was in preparation, and as fast as the baskets containing the dozens of clarets were run in, hands were ready to take the bottles out, dip them in hot water, scrape off the existing labels, relabel them (St. Estèphe) and reconsign them to the carts, and as an additional insult the unconscious carmen themselves were enlisted to assist in labelling the last few dozens, under the impression that they were expediting matters by labelling a fresh consignment of wine for their masters.

As another case. Some time back there was a great run on a well-known brand of champagne of the '74 vintage. A City house held a large quantity, but a great portion of it was, being old, landed—what is known in the wine trade as "on ullage," and as the wine was fetching about 140*s.* a dozen, people would not therefore willingly accept these half empty bottles at such a cost, so these honest traders in order to obtain the full price had an expert over from the champagne district, to unfoil, and draw the corks, filling up the bottles with a champagne sold at, possibly 30*s.* a dozen. After the necessary refoiling and recorking (which is considered an art of the highest order even in the champage trade) the wine was sold as though it were the original and veritable brand of the celebrated '74 vintage, and doubtless drunk at some civic banquet, the City fathers extolling its many virtues, little dreaming they were drinking a 30*s.* blended wine, clothed in a brand which at that time was practically worth its weight in gold!

THE GAS UNDERTAKINGS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Electricity and other illuminants notwithstanding, every year shows an increase in the number of consumers of gas and the amount consumed. The figures issued by the Board of Trade for the year ending December 31, 1887, are as follows:—

Companies—	1887.	1886.	Increase.
Cubic feet of gas consumed ...	56,240,641,000 ...	54,309,760,000 ...	1,930,881,000
Number of consumers	1,152,119 ...	1,133,897 ...	18,222
Public authorities—			
Cubic feet of gas consumed ...	27,418,050,000 ...	26,370,711,000 ...	1,047,339,000
Number of consumers	1,011,139 ...	996,480 ...	14,659

The capital, paid up and borrowed, of the companies has increased by £757,000, to £37,397,000, and that of the local authorities by £358,000, to £20,081,000.

	Receipts.	Expenses.	Net revenue.
Companies	£10,433,000	£7,143,000	£3,290,000
Public authorities.....	4,495,000	3,162,000	1,333,000

The net revenue of the companies is equal to 9 per cent. on the total capital. After paying interest charges the balance left to the local authorities is £439,000.

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